THE NEW
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RAJNATH SINGH TO CELEBRATE DIWALI WITH TROOPS IN ARUNACHAL PRADESH

The defence minister will celebrate the festival of lights with soldiers in Tawang, which saw the first artillery fire from China side during the 1962 war

IAF-UTTARAKHAND WAR MEMORIAL CAR RALLY

Singh's visit also coincides with the flag-in of Indian Air Force-Uttarakhand War Memorial car rally in Tawang on October 30, in the presence of Arunachal CM Pema Khandu and deputy CM Chowna Mein. In October 2023, the defence minister had carried out Shastra Puja with the troops at Tawang and also interacted with those deployed in the frontline locations along the LAC

TAWANG VISIT AMID SINO-INDIAN THAW

- Tawang is a base for men in uniforms including those of the Indian Army, Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) and Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)
- The Tawang trip comes at a time when India-China relations have just begun to thaw following disengagement of troops in Ladakh. China gets worked up whenever an Indian minister visits Arunachal Pradesh | P9

50,000

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PEOPLE LIVING IN TAWANG, WHICH CHINA CALLS LITTLE TIBET

CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

ISRAEL HITS IRAN'S MILITARY SITES

Nuclear sites, energy infrastructure spared; two Iranian soldiers killed

Flight radar data shows airspace over Iran, Syria, and Iraq closed amid Israeli strikes on Saturday

THREE WAVES OF STRIKES

The first wave of attacks targeted Iran's air defence capabilities to ensure the IDF's freedom of operations during Saturday's sorties, and to lay the ground for further strikes, should Iran retaliate

DRONE, MISSILE SITES HIT

The second and third waves of attacks targeted Iran's drone and ballistic missile manufacturing sites as well as sites used to launch such weapons

AGENCIES

ISRAEL on Saturday launched retaliatory strikes against Iran, 25 days after Tehran attacked Tel Aviv with nearly 200 missiles and drones. Israel's airstrikes started around 2 am Iranian time on Saturday and ended by 6 am. Only military sites were hit.

The Israeli military termed its attack 'precise and targeted' strikes to knock down Iran's air defence systems and other defence capabilities.

Owing to US pressure, Israel did not target Iran's nuclear or energy facilities, which were initially seen as possible targets for Israel's response to Iran's October 1 attack.

The extent of damage the Israeli strikes caused was not immediately known, though some reports quoting anonymous Israeli officials said 20 targets were hit.

Iran's state-run media reported that blasts could be heard in Tehran and some of the sounds came from air defence systems around the city.

According to US media reports, the Iranian military complex at Parchin near Tehran was hit.

Iran confirmed the attack, saying two of its soldiers were killed. It claimed its forces thwarted damage to its military sites. Iran's military said the Israeli strikes targeted military bases in Ilam, Khuzestan and Tehran provinces and caused 'limited damage', without elaborating.

Iran's foreign ministry issued a statement saying the country has a responsibility to defend itself, but added Iran "recognises its responsibilities towards regional peace and security", signalling it would not strike back.

Reports said Israel's strike was designed to minimise casualties and to give Iran a face saver. Some reports also claimed that Iran was tipped off ahead of the attack, to ensure the damage was limited.

Saturday's retaliatory strike marked the first time Israel's military has openly attacked Iran, which hasn't faced a sustained barrage of fire from a foreign enemy since its 1980s war with Iraq. In response to the latest attack, several countries, including India, called for an end to the cycle of confrontation.

The US termed the Israeli attack as an act of self-defence and warned Iran against targeting Israel again.

India said it was deeply concerned and urged all sides to take the diplomacy route. "We reiterate our call to all concerned to exercise restraint and return to the path of dialogue and diplomacy. The ongoing hostilities are to nobody's benefit, even as innocent hostages and civilian populations continue to suffer," the Ministry of External Affairs said. P11

OBJECTIVES ACHIEVED, SAYS IDF

IDF spokesperson Rear Adm Daniel Hagari said the goals of the overnight attack on Iran were achieved successfully. "The reprisal strike was completed," he told reporters

Social media told to purge content on hoax bomb threats

RAKESH KUMAR @ New Delhi

WITH hoax bomb threats against airlines continuing unabated, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology issued an advisory directing social media platforms to promptly remove such misinformation and refrain from hosting similar content.

Stating that such hoax bomb threats pose a potential threat to public order and state security, the ministry warned that intermediaries, including social media platforms like X, Facebook, Telegram, and other apps that fail to exercise due diligence will be liable for action under the IT Act and the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023.

As part of their due diligence obligations, it is the responsibility of concerned intermediaries, including social media platforms, to promptly take necessary action by not allowing any user to host, display, publish, store, update, or share any unlawful or false information, the advisory said.

Over 275 Indian carrier flights received bomb threats in 12 days, mostly via social media. On Saturday, at least 10 hotels in Gujarat's Rajkot received hoax bomb threats. And a 25-year-old man based in Delhi was arrested for allegedly posting threat messages to a flight.

The ministry also directed intermediaries to provide information or assistance to government agencies within 72 hours.

Citing IT Rules, 2021, the ministry said it is mandatory for the intermediaries to provide information under their control or extend assistance to the government probe agencies or cyber security activities for verification of identity, or for the prevention, detection, investigation or prosecution of such elements as soon as possible but not later than 72 hours.

EXPRESS READ

RSS bats for Hindu unity, endorses UP CM's remark

MATHURA: Hindu unity is essential for everyone's good and there is a need to be vigilant against forces that seek to divide in the name of religion, caste and ideology, RSS general secretary Dattatreya Hosabale said on Saturday, virtually endorsing the "batengey toh katengey (divided we fall)" remark by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

RBI Guv gets top central banker award

MUMBAI: Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das has been ranked the top central banker by the US-based Global Finance magazine. This is the second consecutive year that Shaktikanta Das has been ranked as the top central banker globally.

NOVEMBER 26

Spl Parliament session to mark 75th anniv of Constitution

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

THE BJP-led NDA government is reportedly planning a special joint sitting of Parliament on November 26 to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution of India. The joint session will be held in the historic Central Hall of the Samvidhan Sadan (old Parliament building), the venue where the first Constituent Assembly had adopted the Constitution on November 26, 1949, after which it came into effect on January 26, 1950.

Sources indicated that a formal call on the joint session will be taken by the Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs shortly. Traditionally, the winter session of Parliament begins in the last week of November or the first week of December. But this year, it appears the session may follow shortly after the Constitution Day is observed.

This year's event is particularly significant, as the ruling alliance and the Opposition INDIA bloc are at odds regarding constitutional matters.

The joint session on November 26 is expected to feature discussions on the Constitution's enduring relevance and its role in shaping Indian democracy, with participation from leaders of various political parties reflecting on the principles of justice, liberty, equality and fraternity. President Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other dignitaries are expected to address the joint session.

From the next calendar year, November 26 will be observed annually as Constitution Day.

Gazette error leads to panic over Waqf Board claiming 1,200 acres from farmers

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru, Vijayapura

AN error in a 1974 gazette notification has led to several farmers panicking over "1,200 acres" of their lands being planned to be taken over by the Waqf Board in Honavada village in Vijayapura district.

Industries Minister MB Patil on Saturday clarified that the confusion over 1,200 acres in Honavada being designated as Waqf property was due to an error in the gazette notification in 1974. This has now come about after the state government faced flak from irate farmers and the opposition BJP. The farmers on Saturday staged a protest in front of deputy commissioner's office in Vijayapura, fearing that their lands would be taken away by the Waqf Board.

Patil, who is also the Vijayapura district in-charge minister, said only 11 acres of the 1,200 acres is Waqf property. These 11 acres are in 10 survey numbers, and have a burial ground covering 10 acres and 14 guntas, with an Idgah, Masjid, and other structures on the remaining 24 guntas.

"All other land belongs to the farmers, as confirmed by the local tahsildar and deputy commissioner," Patil explained.

The gazette notifications on Waqf properties in Vijayapura district were issued in 1974, 1978 and 2016. Waqf property does exist in Mahalbagayata of Vijayapura; however, the name "Honavada" was mistakenly added in brackets after "Mahalbagayata" in the gazette, he said.

CONTINUED ON P5

CLOUDY COURSE

A thick blanket of fog envelopes NICE Road, as vehicles cautiously make their way due to low visibility, in Bengaluru on Saturday morning | VINOD KUMAR T

All for school, villagers crowdfund

BASAVARAJ BHOGAVATI @ Raichur

WITH little help forthcoming, people of Kuppigudda near Lingasugur have decided to develop the government primary school in their village on their own.

They bought a plot measuring 1,600 sqft recently after collecting Rs 5 lakh and donated it to the school. Around 87 students study in Classes I to VII. The classrooms and toilets are in a pathetic condition and the school has no playground. Despite making efforts, the authorities could not get land for the playground.

With this being the situation, the villagers decided to raise money to buy land for the playground and provide other amenities to the school.

A farmer from the village said, "I decided to donate whatever money I had to have a good school for our children."

Teacher Kashibai said she and her colleagues drew the attention of the school development and monitoring committee (SDMC) members to the pitiable condition of classrooms and also stressed the need for a playground for students. "The plot bought by the villagers was registered at the office of the sub-registrar in Lingasugur a few days ago," she said.

Block education officer Hombanna Rathod said, "The villagers' initiative will help a lot in improving the quality of education in this remote village of Lingasugur."

Veeresh Munnoor, Devanna Nelogi, Hanumantaraya Nelogi, Sabanna Nelogi, Madhava Nelogi, Balappa Manamatti, Ayyanagowda Patil and other members of the SDMC collected 5 lakh from the villagers and convinced the landowner to sell the plot for the benefit of children of Kuppigudda.

They said that they would make similar efforts in the future to develop the school in their village.

Mining case: Sail, 6 others get 7 years' RI each in 6 cases

YATHIRAJU @ Bengaluru

A special court on Saturday sentenced seven accused, including Karwar Congress MLA Satish Krishna Sail, to undergo a maximum of seven years of rigorous imprisonment each in six cases concerning illegal extraction and transportation of iron ore.

All the accused have to undergo 42 years of RI in six cases and pay fines of around Rs 45 crore. This is the first order sentencing the accused in illegal mining cases in the state.

The sentenced are the then deputy conservator of port Mahesh J Biliye (now retired); Sail, managing director of Sree Mallikarjun Shipping Private Ltd; Chethan Shah, managing director of M/s Ashapur Menechem; KV Nagaraj, director of M/s Swastik Steels (Hospet) Private Ltd; KV Govindaraj, former director of M/s Swastik Steels; Mahesh Kumar K alias Kharapudi Mahesh, partner of Shri Lakshmi Venkateshwara Minerals; and Prem Chand Garg, managing director of Shri Lal Mahal Ltd. M/s ILC Industries Ltd., and M/s PJS Overseas Ltd., were also sentenced. Since the companies are legal entities, and hence, their representatives cannot be sentenced for corporeal punishment, the court ordered them to pay part of around Rs 45 crore fine. P5

HISTORIC OUTCOME

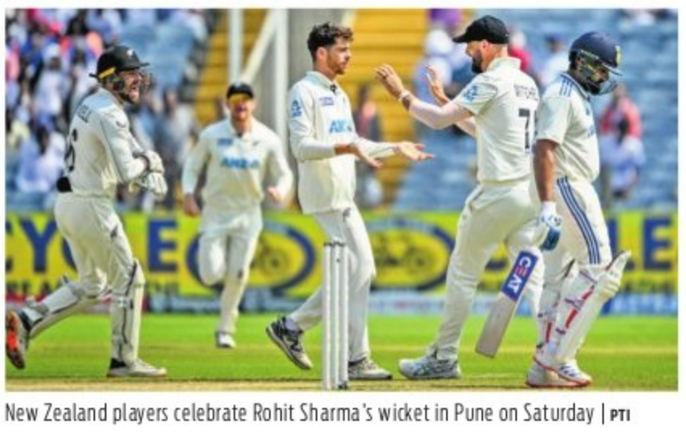
Duodecennial defeat: India's fortress breached by New Zealand

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN @ Pune

THE oxygen had been sucked out of the place. A cheery afternoon crowd were refusing to believe what was unfolding. The Maharashtra Cricket Association Stadium was bearing witness to the death of a dynasty, a kingdom being knocked down in front of their eyes... an end of an incomparable era.

Shortly after Tea on Day 3, as Ravindra Jadeja and R Ashwin tried to string together a couple of commas towards achieving the improbable, there was a certain element of tragicomedy. The two spinners, so often who have bowled India to victory in these conditions to preserve their proud home record, were merely delaying the inevitable. Even as hundreds of fans started making their way to the exits, the two veterans fought gamely for 44 minutes. Once Ashwin fell to Mitchell Santner, the Kiwi picking up his 13th scalp of the Test, any sense of a miracle evaporated. The Black Caps, the inaugural World Test Championship champs, had mastered one of the hardest challenges in the sport; win a Test series in India. The most unlikely team to end more than a decade of dominance.

It's hard to put into words the enormity of this upset for a few reasons. Since the beginning of 2013 till the end of the Bangladesh series earlier this month, the hosts had played 53 Tests at home and won 42 (16 of them by an innings). The Kiwis had won only two away Tests since the beginning of the 2019 WTC cycle till two weeks ago. Put it this way — a team that seldom wins away from home beat the team that always wins at home 2-0 in 10 days. It will undoubtedly go down as one of the biggest shocks the sport has known this century. However, skipper Sharma refused to do any immediate 'postmortem' following the loss. "This is the first time we have had collapses," he said. "We are not able to bat properly. So, it is allowed once in 12 years. If it had been happening for 12 years, we would not have won. But, we have high expectations in India. We have to win all the matches." MORE ON P11



New Zealand players celebrate Rohit Sharma's wicket in Pune on Saturday | PTI

THE NEW SUNDAY EXPRESS | BRIGHTSIDE

02 BENGALURU | SUNDAY | 27.10.2024 | newindianexpress.com

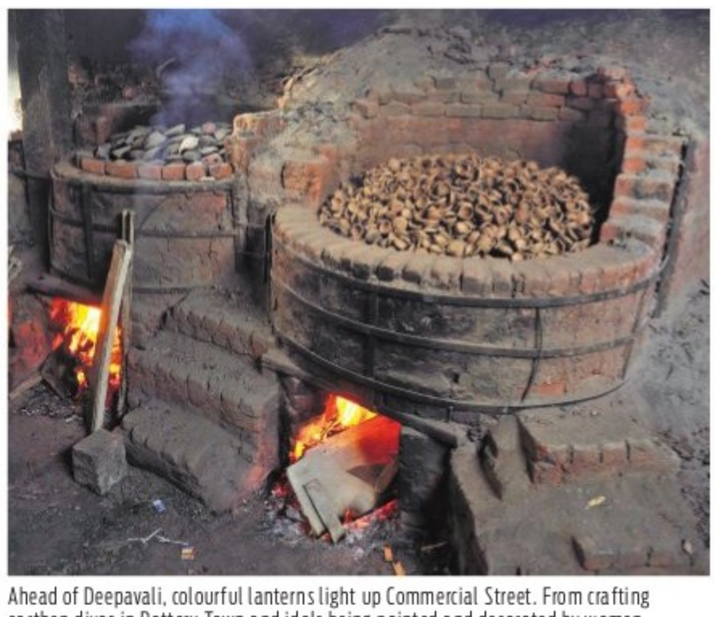
ALMANAC TODAY
• **Sunday:** 27.10.2024 • **Year:** Krodhi • **Ayana:** Dakshinayana
• **Ritu:** Sharad • **Masa:** Ashwayuja • **Paksha:** Krishna • **Tithi:** Dasami 6.57 am
• **Nakshatra:** Makha 2.41 pm • Moon in Kanya Rashi • **Rahukaala:** 04:30 pm to 06:00 pm
• **Gulikakala:** 03:00 pm to 04:30 pm • **Yamaganda:** 12:00 pm to 01:30 pm

WEATHER
MIN 16°C | MAX 28°C
FORECAST
Increasing cloudiness

Sunrise	06.12 am
Sunset	05.54 pm
Moonrise	02.06 am
Moonset	02.49 pm

Festival of Lights is here!

With Deepavali just round the corner, the streets are lit, the air is filled with the scent of blooming jasmines and homes are getting ready for one of the biggest festivals of the year. Streets are filled with joyous crowds finishing off their festival shopping, even as homes are getting ready to hang colourful lanterns and light rows of diyas. The Festival of Lights is almost here and the city is all set to celebrate the victory of light over darkness and good over evil



Ahead of Deepavali, colourful lanterns light up Commercial Street. From crafting earthen diyas in Pottery Town and idols being painted and decorated by women, the city is festival-ready. On the other hand, sweet shops are caught in the hustle of packing sweets for customers. People are out on the streets shopping for lanterns, diyas and firecrackers in Bengaluru | ALLEN EGGENUSE J, VINOD KUMAR T, NAGARAJA GADEKAL

More teeth to civic agencies to stop illegal constructions

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

CHIEF Minister Siddaramaiah announced that more powers will be granted to the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, Bengaluru Development Authority (BDA), and Bangalore Metropolitan Region Development Authority (BMRDA) to prevent accidents caused by unauthorised constructions.

Addressing a joint press conference with the CM, Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister DK Shivakumar said the drive to demolish unauthorised and

substandard quality buildings was continuing in Bengaluru. "The previous government had curtailed the powers of officials to take action against unauthorised construction but our government has decided to give powers to the BBMP, BDA and BMRDA. Besides, the registration of unauthorised properties will also be halted," he said.

Further, the CM directed officials to clear encroachments of stormwater drains in Bengaluru on priority. Speaking to reporter he said that during his last tenure as CM, he had directed officials to clear encroachments, which was not carried out, thus resulting in mishaps whenever it rains heavily in the city. He highlighted that Bengaluru received 275 mm rainfall in October, the third highest for the month in a century.

The World Bank has committed Rs 2000 crore to construct retaining walls for 173 km of stormwater drains and strengthen 80 km of drains. "We held discussions with World Bank officials who visited Bengaluru. They agreed to give Rs 5000 crore, of which Rs 3500 crore will be spent for Bengaluru," he said.

Further, he assured that the project estimate will be cleared in the cabinet and tender process for the same will commence soon. Besides, a Rs 669 crore proposal for road improvements in the city is under review, he added.

Flood-affected people accommodated in hotels

Asked about criticism by Opposition leaders about flood relief works, the DCM said that while two children drowned in a lake in the city, and sub-standard construction, there have not been any rain-related deaths in the city. "Flood-affected residents are accommodated in hotels with necessary support," he added.

New portal show encroachment, contamination of city lakes: Report

BOSKY KHANNA @Bengaluru

AS per records, Agara Lake is spread across 142.73 acres. But in reality, the lake's area has shrunk by 36.43 acres because of encroachment. Buildings have been constructed in the buffer and even within the lake boundary. Not just that, untreated sewage continues to flow into the lake -- situated in the Koramangala-Challaghatta valley in southeast Bengaluru, while a large area of the lake is covered with macrophyte.

The water body, which is managed by the Lake Development Authority, falls under E Category (as per Central Pollution Control Board norms), meaning its water is not fit for consumption. It can only be used for irrigation, industrial cooling and controlled water disposal. This is not the only lake in the city that has been encroached. Similar is the case with Ulsoor Lake and Sankey Tank, to name a few.

These are some of the findings uploaded on the Bangalore Lakes Information System (BLIS) portal created by researchers from the Energy and Wetlands Research Group, Centre for Ecological Sciences, IISc. The portal was launched on a trial basis four months ago and since then, 2,728 citizens have viewed the website, downloaded and utilised the data. "But none of them are government agencies or officials. This is similar to the Bangalore Urban Information System portal which was launched on January 22, 2024. The documents uploaded on BLIS have been compiled by extensive field research, using remote sensing technology and government base maps," said Prof TV Ramachandra from CES, IISc.

The report -- Bangalore Lakes Information System (BLIS) for Sustainable Management, was also published as a journal and released on Friday (October 25, 2024). The researchers have assessed 175 lakes in the city since 2013 and noted that 92% of them are encroached. The portal provides geo-visualisation of information about lakes in Hebbal-Nagavara, Koramangala-Challaghatta and Vrishabhavathi watersheds of Bengaluru, till 2023.

Temporal land use reveals that Bengaluru's landscape has transitioned from a porous landscape (with 68% vegetation cover, 274 lakes/wetlands, and less than 8% built-up area) to a paved contiguous surface (less than 3% vegetation cover, 193 lakes, 86% paved surface) with the loss of vegetation cover (88%) and water cover (79%). Unplanned developmental activities post-2000s, due to concentrated construction for IT parks and Special Economic Zones in the city, have given impetus to rapid urbanisation with drastic and unrealistic land use changes. This has led to decline in the groundwater table, causing urban flooding, stated the report.

The BLIS is designed with information on water quality, biodiversity (microalgae, zooplankton, ichthyofauna, macrophytes, and birds), threats (encroachments, inflow of untreated sewage, etc.) and ecosystem services of lakes in Bengaluru. The portal and report empower decision-making through knowledge of lake distribution in terms of physical, chemical and biological aspects and the value of ecosystem services, which is crucial for evolving strategies for prudent management of water bodies in Greater Bengaluru, he said.

The portal provides geo-visualisation of information about lakes in Hebbal-Nagavara, Koramangala-Challaghatta and Vrishabhavathi watersheds of Bengaluru, till 2023 — Report

THE STORY CONTINUES

Civic workers fill potholes which resurfaced after the recent heavy rain on Mysuru Road in Bengaluru on Saturday | VINOD KUMAR T

UAS to host annual Krishi Mela from Nov 14

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

TO spotlight cutting-edge practices in sustainable farming, the University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS) is set to host its annual Krishi Mela from November 14 to 17, at Gandhi Krishi Vigyan Kendra (GKVK).

This year's event, organised jointly with key Karnataka government departments, will be hosted under the theme 'Climate Smart Digital Agriculture' and will showcase four newly developed crop varieties, demonstrations, and expert insights to support climate-resilient agriculture.

Vice Chancellor of UAS Suresh SV, highlighted that the university will unveil high-yield maize hybrid MAH-15-84, a single hybrid with a 14.2% higher yield than its predecessor, the disease resistant alasande variety KBC-12, the sunflower crossbreed KBSH-90, with a 26% higher oil yield, and the Bajra Napier hybrid PBN-342, which offers enhanced green fodder yield and quality. Each variety is specifically designed for cultivation across zones 5 and 6 in Karnataka. The agriculture fair will feature 700 stalls, showcasing organic farming, soilless agriculture, advanced irrigation, and integrated pest management. Special exhibitions on horticulture, precision agriculture, medicinal plants, and watershed management will provide farmers with hands-on insights into sustainable practices.

The four-day long event will also recognise farmers across different categories. It will honour top-performing farmers, and 146 farmers at district and taluk levels, including young farmers under 35.

Agri programme for specially challenged

As the annual Krishi Mela draws massive crowds each year, it is challenging for differently abled individuals to be part of the event. Therefore, a separate programme has been arranged by the UAS to ensure inclusivity. The event 'A day with special minds in an agricultural environment' will be held today (Sunday) from 9 am. The event will be inaugurated by the Agriculture Minister N Chaluvarayaswamy, at the University's campus and will feature guided tours, cultural programmes, and quizzes around agriculture.

India can lead in global climate action: Experts

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

INDIA stands prepared to lead in global climate action through technology and open networks, emphasised experts at the inaugural edition of the Beckn Node Zero 2024 conference.

Organised by FIDE and Sattva Knowledge Institute, the event gathered industry leaders to discuss India's role in combating climate challenges. Speakers highlighted India's capability to reduce its climate impact while offering scalable solutions to the world.

In his keynote, Infosys Non-Executive Chairman and FIDE co-founder Nandan Nilekani underscored the urgency of rapid, large-scale action. "The world has moved into an execution mode on the global climate crisis, and it is time for us to step up," he said. Nilekani proposed leveraging India's Direct Benefit Transfer system to incentivise climate action, linking behavioural change to financial support.

Further, he also highlighted the concept of 'Finternet', a decentralised system to tokenise assets for climate finance. "We have the technology and capability to make this work," he said, stressing that while data to predict climate extremes exist, high coordination costs hinder its accessibility—a challenge he argued can be resolved through open networks. He pointed out that in the circular economy, only 7% of materials are recycled, which open networks could help improve by reducing logistical complexities.

During the event, a panel discussion examined whether India's technological capability matches its climate goals. Panellists noted that for open networks to truly impact the ecosystem, they must be implemented with contextual understanding.

Dr Pramod Varma, FIDE co-founder, highlighted open networks' potential to tackle climate issues through transparency, collaboration, and efficiency and urged a shift towards a sustainable economy that integrates nature's value, emphasising that solutions must evolve from user-centric thinking to foster trust and lower coordination costs.

The CCB, along with Drug Controller officers, raided a pharmacy for retailing medicines without prescription. Based on a tipoff, police raided Shree Datha Sai Shreyas Pharmacy and Medical Store near Nagavarapalya Main Road on Tuesday, which was dispensing medicines, such as Tramadol, Tapentadol, Alprazolam sleeping tablets, and Codeine cough syrup, without any prescription

ENGAGE ELCITA TO FIX CITY ROADS, NOT CONTRACTORS, SAYS SHAW

As her posts go viral, experts suggest solutions to keep stretches problem-free

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

BIOCON founder Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw's suggestion, asking the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) to assign the responsibility of fixing Bengaluru roads to the Electronics City Industrial Township Authority (ELCITA) and not Palike contractors has gone viral.

Shaw put up back-to-back posts on X on Friday morning as heavy rain has badly damaged roads in Bommanahalli, which is part of the IT corridor. Shaw pointed out that ELCITA uses Road Metrics, a tool, to scan roads every fortnight to find out defects. This data allows them to fix issues quickly before they worsen.

Water stagnation causes potholes, but Electronics City prevents this with clean drains, stronger drainage systems

Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, founder, Biocon

"Water stagnation causes potholes, but Electronics City prevents this with clean drains, stronger drainage systems, and 75 rainwater harvesting pits -- keeping roads dry even during heavy rains," she wrote.

One of her posts was nothing short of a dressing down for the city administration. "ELCITA ought to be given a contract to fix the city's roads, not BBMP contractors," Shaw posted, tagging Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, who is also the Bengaluru Development Minister, and IT-BT Minister Priyank Kharge.

Supporting her views, D Prasad, a Member of the Indian Road Congress who was part of the road design of ELCITA, said water and road do not go along well and frequent ponding on roads will lead to damage and result in craters and bad stretches.

"The outlet for drains should connect to the inlet without any breach damage. The runoff of water from the road surface to the lowest point should be smooth and the road should not be cut or uneven. The damaged roads and potholes should be fixed as soon as they appear," he said.

ELCITA takes measures to cut tree branches as water drops from branches could damage roads. Also, fallen leaves are not allowed to clog the drain. These are simple solutions that need to be followed, he pointed out.

Chetan Sodaye from WRI India said that when focusing on road infrastructure, the key elements that need to be kept in mind include footpath design, intersection design with clear markings, signals, and pedestrian crossings to minimise conflicts between different road users. He said implementing proper slopes on roads with water channels is an effective drainage solution to prevent water accumulation on roads, which can lead to surface damage like potholes.

A heap of garbage in Koramangala on Saturday | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

WHAT A WASTE!

Daily waste collection
3,500 tonnes from 8 zones

350 compactors unload waste every day

Two landfills - Bellahalli and Mitaganahalli - serve city

Over 100 compactors, each with 10-tonne capacity, stuck on the route near both landfills

Over 5,000 tonnes of waste yet to be cleared

After rain, it's reign of garbage in Bengaluru

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

FOLLOWING record rainfall this month, with areas like Yelahanka and Mahadevapura getting battered by the downpour earlier this week, Bengaluru is now staring at a garbage problem. According to officials from the Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML), owing to heavy rainfall, loaded compactors are stuck near Mitaganahalli landfill in the Mahadevapura zone, and Bellahalli landfill in the Yelahanka zone.

The BBMP collects around 3,500 tonnes of waste daily, which is transported to these landfills for scientific capping. Since there was rain, the loaded trucks got struck, hindering waste collection on Tuesday and Wednesday, resulting in garbage being piled up across the city. The waste collection resumed only on Friday. "Waste collection was severely hit in Yelahanka, Dasarahalli, and Mahadevpura zones for three days. As a result, heaps of waste were seen dumped across the city. The trucks could not move due to water stagnation on the road and also due to the slushy route at the yards," said a senior engineer from BSWML. He added this impacted daily waste collection, resulting in a backlog of over 5,000 tonnes of waste.

"The unloading of the daily collection is happening and if there is no rain on Saturday and Sunday, we will be able to clear all the backlogs," said the engineer, adding that on Monday, the BBMP will chair a meeting regarding setting up of four integrated waste-to-energy plants on the city's outskirts, and once this is cleared and the infrastructure is set up, the waste from the city will be channelised into these areas.

Woman plotted husband's murder with her paramour, three others

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

A woman who plotted to kill her husband, along with four others, has been arrested. It was the same woman who approached the police, claiming that her husband was murdered. The police launched an investigation, only to discover her role in the murder.

Thirty-year-old Thippesha was murdered on October 14. The accused are identified as **Nagarathna**, her boyfriend Ram, and his friends Shashi Kumar, Suresh, and Chinna.

The police investigation revealed that Nagarathna plotted Thippesha's murder with Ram, who roped in the three others to carry out the crime. Thippesha's body was found on October 14, near Bhoganahalli Lake, under the jurisdiction of Bellandur police.

The couple, who hailed from Siruguppa taluk in Ballari district, worked as gardeners. They had been living with their two young children in a shed near the lake.

On the morning of the murder, Thippesha left home around 8.30 am, heading to his workplace to collect some cash. However, he was stabbed, and his body was found lying near the lake. A local alerted the police and Nagarathna. The police registered a case based on her statement and began an investigation.

Reviewing CCTV footage of the accused's movements, police arrested the suspects. Upon questioning, they revealed Nagarathna's involvement, along with Ram. The two were arrested. Nagarathna, who had an affair with Ram, allegedly told him to get rid of her husband. Ram then roped in three of his friends to carry out the murder.

Couple blackmail Guttedar, arrested

ENS @ Bengaluru

THE CCB has arrested Manjula Patil, president of the Nalapad Brigade, and her husband, Shivraj Patil, for attempting to extort money from Congress leader Malikayya V Guttedar. The couple, natives of Kalaburagi, were arrested based on a complaint by Ritesh Guttedar, the son of Malikayya. Police arrested the couple near Garuda Mall here on Saturday.

According to police, Manjula had befriended Malikayya, engaging in regular conversations, including video calls, with him. Over time, she and her husband began threatening him with dire consequences and demanded Rs 20 lakh, to refrain him from filing a police complaint, and sharing information with the media. They repeatedly contacted Malikayya on October 23 and 24 too via WhatsApp, stating that if the money was not paid, they would release the defamatory messages sent to Manjula.

Accused Manjula and Shivraj Patil

The couple instructed Malikayya to meet them near Garuda Mall to collect the money, where the police arrested them. "The arrested individuals were producerd in court, and have been remanded in police custody for eight days. We will interrogate them to gather further information," the police said.

Power cut tomorrow

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

DUE to maintenance works on the 66/11KV line, there will be power supply interruption on October 28, from 10am to 5pm. The areas to be affected are- Manjunath Nagar, Thimmaiah Road, Bhovi Colony, Mahaganapathi Nagar, Adarsha Nagar, Adarsha Layout, Indira Nagar, Lakshmi Nagar, HVK Layout, Karnataka Layout, Kamala Nagar, Mahalakshmi Puram, JC Nagar, Kurabaralli, Rajaji Nagar, Gruhalakshmi Layout, Mico Layout, West of Chord Road, Mahalakshmi Layout, Sandal Soap Factory, Yeshwanthpur Industrial Area and surrounding areas.

Mental health festival to help combat stigma

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

IN a bid to advance mental health conversations, NIMHANS, Rohini Nilekani Philanthropies (RNP), and the National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS) inaugurated the two-day National Mental Health Festival - Mannotsava, on Saturday. The event aims to bring together experts, artists, and communities to combat mental health stigma and promote awareness.

The event featured over 105 speakers, 40 sessions, and more than 20 stalls and installations. Activities, including expert-led discussions, art performances, interactive workshops, and informative stalls, designed to foster a holistic approach to mental health by blending education with action, were organised. Key themes focus around addiction, youth mental health, chronic illness, parenting, and healthy ageing, with a focus on empowering individuals and communities to proactively address mental health challenges.

Rohini Nilekani, Chairperson of RNP, highlighted the festival's role in creating a much-needed public platform for mental health discourse, stating, "Following the pandemic, mental health has emerged as a topic that needs a lot more discussion. But we don't have many public platforms that bring together experts, civil society, researchers, and artists to dialogue on the state of our individual and collective wellbeing. Mannotsava endeavours to be such a platform, and we hope this festival will enrich the ongoing discourse around mental health."

NIMHANS Director Dr Pratima Murthy mentioned that Mannotsava aspires to be a bridge between science and society and between mental wellness and illness. It creates a space for the sharing of credible information related to mental health.

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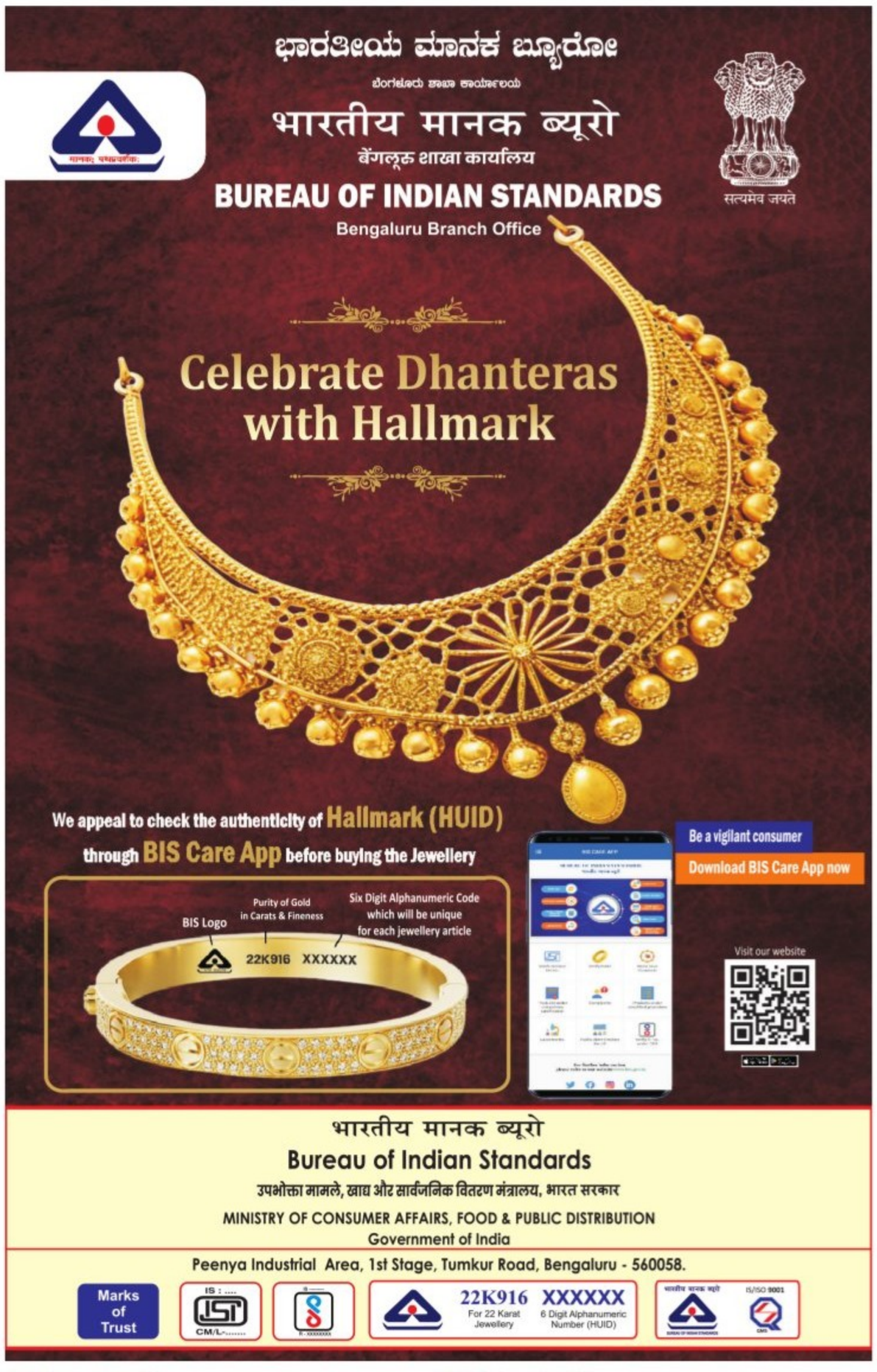

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S.No.:- 1057 Date:- 22/10/2024
NIT No. 07/2024-25
Notice Inviting Bid
NIB No. PWD2425A2357
Bids for "Construction of 2 Nos. Girls Hostel Building in Dist. Jhalawar" are invited from interested bidders upto 6.00 PM, Dated 18.11.2024 Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://erpoc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the Rajasthan and http://pwd.rajasthan.gov.in website. The approximate value of the procurement is Rs. 430.00 Lacs.

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DIPR/C/10475/2024
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Belagavi MP Jagadish Shettar has been nominated as a member of the Commerce and Industries Parliamentary Advisory Committee of the 18th Lok Sabha. The Central Parliamentary Affairs Ministry has issued a notification in this regard

TO WOO VOTERS, 'DKS AS CM' SLOGAN RISES AGAIN

In Channapatna, Vokkaliga leaders within Congress have started projecting Shivakumar as next chief minister

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI
@Bengaluru

DK Shivakumar

CP Yogeshwara

CONFIRMING what was in the air as to why Deputy Chief Minister and KPCC president DK Shivakumar's younger brother DK Suresh refrained from contesting the Channapatna bypoll, Vokkaliga leaders within Congress have started projecting Shivakumar as the next chief minister.

This is being interpreted as a strategy to grab most of the Vokkaliga votes for Congress candidate CP Yogeshwara in Channapatna, by sending out a message that Shivakumar is the only leader from the community who is capable of acquiring the top post.

"We should make our son of the district as chief minister and if Yogeshwara wins the Channapatna bypoll, we can make Shivakumar CM this term itself," said former MLA MC Ashwath at the coordination committee meeting held at Tittamaranahalli village in Channapatna on Saturday.

Earlier, Shivakumar had appealed to Channapatna voters to consider him as the candidate and vote for anyone the party picks to contest the election. Suresh too has taken the same line to win over voters. "As Shivakumar said earlier, the election is being held in his name, no matter who is contesting. Though Yogeshwara is the candidate, the party is seeking votes in Shivakumar's name," Suresh said. He said Yogeshwara has played his role in making many leaders chief ministers. "But as his political future was in jeopardy, he consulted Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and joined us," he added.

The DK brothers, who have shouldered the responsibility of ensuring Yogeshwara's victory, have been holding a series of meetings with party workers and community members overnight to mobilise them.

A few days before joining Congress, Yogeshwara had also said Shivakumar is just a step away from becoming chief minister and will not contest the Channapatna bypoll.

Foreseeing such a development to win over Vokkaliga voters, Union minister and JDS state president HD Kumaraswamy, who is a prominent Vokkaliga leader, had made a preemptive statement a few days ago in Mysuru, saying the Congress government will collapse before 2028 and he will become chief minister for the third time. His son and NDA candidate Nikhil too had said the people of the state wish Kumarswamy becomes CM again.

I TOLD HDK TO ALLY WITH BJP: YOGESHWARA

Congress candidate for the November 13 bypolls from Channapatna, CP Yogeshwara, on Saturday claimed that he had suggested to Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy to forge an alliance with the BJP and revive the JDS. "I only instilled the idea in Kumaraswamy to ally with the BJP in order to revive the JDS. I spoke to DyCM and KPCC president DK Shivakumar on the bypolls only on the day I joined the Congress," Yogeshwara said while addressing a Congress workers' meeting at Channapatna. He was replying to Kumaraswamy, who had alleged that Yogeshwara was in touch with the Congress leaders for a couple of months before joining the party.

RAIN FURY: 25 DEATHS, CROPS ON 1.05 LAKH HECTARES DAMAGED

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

AS many as 25 people have died and agriculture and horticulture crops on 1.05 lakh hectares have been damaged due to heavy rains in Karnataka since October 1.

Speaking to media persons after holding a review meeting with senior officials, including Deputy Commissioners, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said the DCs have been directed to complete the survey of crop damage within a week and send the report to the State Government. The survey is underway and will be completed in the next three to four days, he said.

As per the preliminary report, agriculture crop on 74,994 hectares and horticulture crop on 30,941 hectares have been damaged in the rain. The officials have been directed to provide compensation within 48 hours, in case of loss of life and damage to houses.

The CM said from October 1 to 25, Karnataka received 181mm of rain which is 58mm more than the average rainfall of 114mm during that time in a normal year. In the last 100 years, this was the third-highest rainfall in October.

From June 1 to September 30, the state received 978mm of rain, higher than the average rainfall of 852 mm.

As per the forecast, the state is likely to receive above-average rainfall in many parts from October to December, the CM said.

All major reservoirs are full with a storage of 871.25 tmcft, while the capacity is 895.81 tcmft. It was 505.81 tmcft during this time last year, he said. "We are comfortable this year. We have directed the Irrigation Department to supply drinking water for a full year and provide water for crops," he said.

The CM said Rs 551 crore is available with the Deputy Commissioners and Rs 115.71 crore with the tahsildars for relief measures.

The DCs have been directed to take measures to clear encroachment of lakes, the CM said. Due to heavy rain, 12,553 km of rural roads and 1,106 small bridges have been damaged.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and DyCM DK Shivakumar chair a meeting to assess rain-related damage in Karnataka, in Bengaluru on Saturday | EXPRESS

Former MLA Syed Azeempeer Khadri (second from left) greets Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in Bengaluru on Saturday | PIC: X

Cong Shiggaon dissent quelled, Khadri promised 'reward'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

IN a relief to the Congress ahead of the November 13 bypolls to three Assembly constituencies, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, who is also KPCC president, managed to quell the rebellion in Shiggaon by convincing former MLA Syed Azeempeer Khadri to withdraw his nomination papers by promising him a post suitable to his position in the party.

But on Sunday, Housing Minister BZ Zameer Ahmed Khan is likely to ferry Khadri's supporters in 20 buses to meet the CM and DyCM to convince them.

Khadri was the front-runner to get the Congress ticket for Shiggaon, but the party high command chose Yasir Ahmad Khan Pathan, who had lost to BJP's Basavaraj Bommai in the 2023 Assembly elections.

The BJP has fielded Bharat Bommai, son of Haveri MP and former chief minister Basavaraj Bommai, for the November 13 bypolls.

A miffed Khadri had filed his nomination papers on Friday to contest as an independent. Zameer, who had tried to convince Khadri by visiting Shiggaon, failed and even the latter's supporters damaged his car. Zameer, however, arranged for Khadri's meeting with the CM and the DyCM.

Addressing a joint press conference, Shivakumar said that Khadri will withdraw his nomination on October 30. "The Congress will reward Khadri after the polls... we cannot make it public now because of the Model Code of Conduct. Khadri should have been given a ticket in the last elections... but Yasir Pathan was fielded. The party will not forget Khadri's sacrifice," the DyCM added.

Shivakumar informed that MLC Nazir Ahmed, BDA chairman NA Haris, and Congress leader Ismail Tamatgar have all persuaded Khadri to quit the bypoll race.

Khadri breaks down

Speaking to the media, Khadri broke down after not being fielded by the Congress from Shiggaon. "I appealed to the CM and the DyCM to give me the ticket. But they said the decision was made by the party high command. I will take the party's decision to my supporters. I will discuss it with them. We will meet the CM and DyCM on Sunday...," he said, adding that he is a disciplined soldier of the Congress.

"I have so far contested five elections... four times on a Congress ticket. I lost by a very narrow margin against Basavaraj Bommai in three elections. I lost one election by 787 votes," he said. "In my first electoral battle in 1999, CM Siddaramaiah played a role in getting me the Janata Dal ticket, and I won it. Now, the Congress is more important to me than any individual," Khadri further said.

The Congress will reward Khadri after the polls... we cannot make it public now because of the Model Code of Conduct
— DK Shivakumar, Deputy Chief Minister and KPCC chief

Channapatna bypolls: A clash of Vokkaliga biggies

UNION Minister HD Kumaraswamy and his arch-rival Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar are not in the fray for the November 13 assembly bypolls. But the real contest in Channapatna — around 60 km from Bengaluru — is between the two Vokkaliga heavyweights. They are making every effort to outdo each other to consolidate their support base within the community and the region.

Former CM Kumaraswamy won from Channapatna — famous for wooden toys and lacquerware — in the 2023 polls, while state Congress president Shivakumar was elected from the neighbouring Kanakapura with a massive margin of 1.2 lakh votes. Nikhil Kumaraswamy is now fielded as an NDA candidate in the high-stakes by-elections, after his father Kumaraswamy was elected as MP from Mandya and vacated the assembly seat.

He is taking on Congress' CP Yogeshwara, a former minister, five-time MLA, and a perpetual party-hopper. Both candidates are also known for their work in Kannada movies.

Nikhil lost two elections back-to-back — the 2019 Lok Sabha polls from Mandya and the 2024 assembly election from Ramanagaram. Breaking that losing streak is important for the former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda's grandson, who is actively involved in party work.

This election is equally important for Kumaraswamy and the regional party as Congress leaders are constantly targeting Kumaraswamy since his induction into Prime Minister Narendra Modi's cabinet. Leave aside cooperation on the administration front, there is constant friction between the state government and the Union minister.

A win in Channapatna may not change that equation much. However, it could help the JDS leader send a message to his detractors that he still holds sway over the voters in the dominant community. That could further boost his reputation among the NDA leaders.

Unlike Shivakumar, who is playing it safe by giving the Congress ticket to Yogeshwara, who rejoined Congress earlier this week after quitting BJP, Kumaraswamy has taken the bull by the horns by fielding his son. Last year's assembly election results give some indication of the logic behind their decisions. Kumaraswamy had secured 48.83% votes, while Yogeshwara, who had contested as a BJP candidate, got a good 40.7% votes. Congress had secured a mere 7.77 % of the votes.

Perhaps for Shivakumar, who is eyeing the CM's post, Yogeshwara is the best bet to take on JDS in its stronghold. His image as a Vokkaliga strongman in Congress had taken a hit after his younger brother DK Suresh's defeat in the Lok Sabha polls from Bangalore Rural. A win in Channapatna may help to undo that damage to some extent.

The ruling parties generally have an advantage in the bypolls. But those closely associated with Channapatna polls say it can go either way. In the next few days, all attention will be focused on the assembly seat in the Old Mysuru region, though the BJP is fighting Congress in Sandur and Shiggaon assembly segments in North Karnataka.

In Shiggaon, the Congress' strategy to field a minority community leader Yasir Khan Pathan as its candidate is likely to help the BJP consolidate Lingayat votes, apart from getting support from other communities. On its part, Congress is banking on the significant presence of minority and Kuruba community voters in the segment.

Former CM and BJP MP Basavaraj Bommai's son Bharath is making his electoral debut from the constituency which was represented by his father. Bharath's grandfather SR Bommai, a veteran Janata Party and Janata Dal leader was the Chief Minister from Aug 1988 to April 1989.

In Sandur (ST reserved constituency), BJP's charge is led by former minister Gali Janardhan Reddy. Although BJP never won the seat in the past, its leaders claim that every election is different. Sandur was represented by Congress' E Tukaram for four terms. His wife E Annapoorna is now the party candidate after he was elected as MP from Ballari.

The focus of the bypolls will largely be on Channapatna, which will witness the clash of the Vokkaliga heavyweights from Congress and JDS, with BJP throwing its weight behind its NDA ally. Senior leaders from Congress and JDS-BJP are going to pull out all the stops to win the seat.

'GUIDING ALL ASPECTS OF LIFE'

Dharma most fundamental concept of Indian culture: V-P

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

DHARMA is considered the most fundamental concept of Indian culture, and it is a barometer that guides us, guiding all aspects of life, Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar has said. He was speaking at the Namah Shivaya Parayan organised by the Sri Sharada Peetham, Sringeri, to commemorate the golden jubilee of the initiation into the sanyasa of Peethadhipati of Sri Sri Bharatiteertha Mahanasannidhanam, in Bengaluru on Saturday.

Dharma represents both the path, the passage, as well as the destination and the goal, applying to all spheres of existence, including divine beings, and serves as a practical rather than utopian ideal for righteous living, Dhankhar said.

He also said that Sanatana stands for empathy, sympathy, compassion, tolerance, nonviolence, virtuosity, sublimity, religiosity, and all this converges in one word, inclusivity. We don't need lessons in this country on inclusivity. We live inclusivity every moment, every day. This nation, Bharat, home to one sixth of humanity, has for centuries demonstrated to the world what is inclusivity, the Vice-President said.

Dhankar said that Vedic chanting represents one of humanity's most ancient and unbroken oral traditions. "The systematic compositions of Vedic verses, the intricate rules of their recitation... this demonstrates the scientific sophistication of our ancient scholars. This has been accomplished without a pen or without a pen drive. Harmonious articulation of syllables has been transmitted through generations, and what an absorbing capacity we have," he added.

Talking about Adi Shankaracharya, he said, "All kinds of efforts were made to run down our culture, taint and tarnish our culture, and destroy our cultural fabric. This was by bigoted minds. The nation has survived because our culture is indestructible. It can't be destroyed or decimated, and friends, amongst this luminous class, is Adi Shankaracharya, who devotedly worked to liberate society from its suffering."

"We owe a great debt to Adi Shankaracharya for the revival of timeless tradition of India's spirituality and philosophy, the legendary and easily comprehensible teachings of Adi Shankaracharya and his reflections on our scriptures catalysed unifying spirit across Bharat," the Vice-President added.

Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar and his wife Sudesh being greeted by DyCM DK Shivakumar at 'Namah Shivaya' an offering of stotras to commemorate the golden jubilee of the initiation into the sanyasa of Peethadhipati of Sri Sri Bharatiteertha Mahanasannidhanam. Union Minister Pralhad Joshi looks on

Sanatana stands for empathy, sympathy, compassion, tolerance, nonviolence, virtuosity, sublimity, religiosity, and all this converges in one word, inclusivity — Jagdeep Dhankhar, Vice-President

Shivarame Gowda quits BJP, to join Congress

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Mysuru

IN the runup to the Channapatna bypoll, the BJP-JDS opposition alliance suffered a setback with former MLA LR Shivaramae Gowda announcing his resignation from BJP. Like Channapatna Congress bypoll candidate CP Yogeshwara, who jumped to the Grand Old Party from BJP, Gowda announced he too is joining Congress. Gowda said he had joined BJP to strengthen the party in Mandya district and said he had appealed to party state president BY Viyajendra not to leave the Mandya Lok Sabha seat to JDS which was ultimately won by now-Union minister HD Kumaraswamy.

He said the alliance with JDS hit BJP hard and JDS leaders are against the saffron party. Gowda revealed that Yogeshwara worked in favour of BJP Lok Sabha candidate Dr CN Manjunath in Bangalore Rural. But unfortunately the party tried to finish off Yogeshwara in Channapatna to ensure the seat to the HD Deve Gowda family. "The people of Channapatna are not fools. Yogeshwara will win the bypoll. They are making Nikhil a sacrificial goat here," he added. He blamed Vijayendra, former CM BS Yediyurappa and factionalism within BJP for Yogeshwara to quit BJP.

He said Kumaraswamy was lucky to become CM twice. When Kumaraswamy's ship was about to sink, the people of Mandya came to his rescue and elected him to the Lok Sabha. Instead of going around the globe and bringing investments to Mandya and the state, Kumaraswamy is running around in Bengaluru and Mandya, raising the MUDA issue and targeting DK Shivakumar, he criticised.

To handle the festive rush, Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation will be operating 2,000 additional buses for Deepavali. It will be operating buses from Bengaluru to destinations within Karnataka and outside from October 30 to November 1

Rain batters Madurai, outskirts; CM Stalin steps in

Senior officials from Chennai deputed to Madurai to monitor works; 20 medical camps, 3 shelters established

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Chennai

Water overflowing from Pandalkudi channel inundated houses in Sellur Kattabomman Nagar in Madurai on Saturday | K K SUNDAR

MADURAI district in Tamil Nadu continued to witness record rainfall with the district receiving more than 100 mm of rainfall in 24 hours from 6 am Friday to 6am Saturday (average of 47.34mm rainfall). Several areas in Madurai city including the eastern and northern parts witnessed heavy water-logging, with many residents forced to stay inside homes in knee-deep water.

Speaking to reporters in Chennai on Saturday, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin said the state government had taken measures to dewater the inundated areas. Addressing reporters at the DMK headquarters on Saturday, he said that the two ministers from Madurai, P Moorthy and Palanivel Thiaga Rajan, are camping in the district to take relief measures.

Senior officials from Chennai too have been deputed to Madurai to oversee the work. The CM further said that water entered the houses only in eight places. Earlier in a post on X (formerly Twitter), he said, "Giant electric pumps and engineers from nearby municipalities have been sent to Madurai to drain rainwater from the residential areas," he said, adding that he spoke to the Madurai Collector to inquire about the situation.

Twenty medical camps have been set up and three shelters have been established to accommodate the affected people. Chief Secretary and Commissioner of Revenue Administration and Disaster Management are continuously monitoring the situation, the CM said in his post.

"All the kanmois are safe and are brimming with water which is flowing into the Vaigai river. Efforts are now on to bail out the water," Madurai Corporation Commissioner C Dinesh Kumar said.

DyCM Udhayanidhi reviews measures

Tamil Nadu Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin on Saturday reviewed the precautionary measures taken ahead of the Northeast monsoon at the secretariat. IAS officers appointed to monitor Chennai corporation zones were present at the meeting. Udhayanidhi commended them for ensuring that water in most places were drained quickly after the rain on the night of October 14. He also reviewed the time taken for water to drain in various places across the city, areas affected by power cuts and preventive steps to prevent such disruptions in future. He also enquired if the planned precautionary measures have been completed in waterbodies like Otteri Nullah.

NATURE'S FURY

Paddy crops in 80K hectares hit by Cyclone Dana

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bhubaneswar

A DAY after cyclone 'Dana' hit Odisha coasts the state government on Saturday said standing kharif crops over 80,000 hectare of agricultural land were impacted by torrential rains accompanied by strong wind and crop damage compensation will be paid as per the new relief guidelines.

After two rounds of review meeting to assess the extent of crop damage in cyclone affected districts, Deputy Chief Minister KV Singh Deo who also holds the Agriculture portfolio told reporters that filed staff of Agriculture and Revenue departments have been instructed to conduct geo-tagged field assessments after the rain subsides.

"After compilation of district wise reports, the same will be submitted to the government for necessary action. These findings will guide necessary actions by the state government to ensure our farmers receive timely support and assistance. The government is fully committed to ensure that the affected farmers receive their rightful due," Singh Deo said.

Cautioning against misleading information, Singh Deo said, "We have also requested the people not to provide false and fabricated information to get undue advantage. If any one found to have provided inaccurate information, action will be taken."

As per preliminary reports from districts, the Deputy CM said, 79,671 hectare of crop land were badly affected either due to lodging or water logging. Maximum damage have been reported from Kendrapara (23,000 hectare) and Bhadrak (24,115 hectare) districts followed by Balasore district (3,140 hectare).

Singh Deo who was in charge of Kendrapara district said Rajnagar, Rajkanika, Mahakalpara and Aul blocks of the district were mostly affected while Basudevpur, Chandbali, Dhamnagar and Bhandaripokhari blocks of Bhadrak district are the worst hit.

WAQF BOARD

BJP slams Cong over 'appeasement policies'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

THE Waqf Board acknowledged the mistake in the 1974 gazette, which was corrected in 1977 by removing "Honavada" from the records, Patil said. The tahsildar and deputy commissioner have also confirmed that the confusion arose from the incorrect documentation. "This error and its correction came to light recently. Only properties that meet Waqf criteria will be allocated as Waqf land. Farmers and private owners have no reason to worry," the minister said. He will soon convene another meeting with officials.

Patil said after farmers brought it to his notice, he held a meeting on October 19 with officers and directed them to address the issue appropriately. Stating that no farmer-owned land would be taken as Waqf property, Patil also asked BJP leaders to refrain from politicising the matter.

"I will not allow an inch of farmers' land to be taken by any other department if the farmers are the real owners. Even in case some farmers receive any notice, they can visit the deputy commissioner's office with their documents. Appropriate action will be taken. But I am making it clear again: Farmers' lands will not be acquired at all. The farmers of Honawad need not panic," he said.

Earlier in the day, responding to questions on reports of notices being served to the farmers, Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara said they will review it. "The state government and the revenue department will review it. A decision will be taken based on the old records," he said.

Farmers in the village panicked as word spread that notices were allegedly being issued to them. BJP MP Tejasavi Surya alleged that the Waqf Board has decided to acquire around "1500 acres" in the village.

Earlier, Deputy Commissioner T Bhoobalan also stated that no notices had been served to farmers by the Waqf Board. Rebutting reports that Waqf Board has around 1500 acres in Honavad, Bhoobalan too said the Board has no property running into thousands of acres there, and that it had only around 11 acres.

Vijayendra: Cong neglecting farmers

BJP Karnataka president **BY Vijayendra** said, "The audacity of the Waqf Board in issuing notices to farmers — who have owned and cultivated the land for generations — is utterly unacceptable. This action is a direct outcome of the relentless appeasement policies fostered by the Congress government." He accused Congress of not only neglecting farmers but also leaving them vulnerable to the unjust claims of the Waqf Board, stripping them of their rightful land and livelihood.

PINARAYI DISTANCES HIMSELF FROM CONTROVERSIAL BOOK

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Kozhikode

KERALA CHIEF Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has distanced himself from the controversial portions in the book on Muslim politics authored by CPM state committee member P Jayarajan. Hinting that the remarks on PDP leader Abdul Nazar Madani in the book is not that of the party, Pinarayi said releasing a book does not mean that he too shares all the opinions expressed in the book. Pinarayi was speaking at the release of the book 'Keralam: Muslim politics, Political Islam' in Kozhikode on Saturday. In his speech, Pinarayi didn't touch the controversial issues in the book, but instead targeted the Jama'at-Islami.

The reference in the book that Madani radicalised Muslim youth in Kerala had ignited a controversy in the state.

"Every author may have his or her personal opinion on each topic. There is no stipulation that the person who releases a book should share all opinions in it," he said.

The chief minister said there is space in public sphere for differing views and the space should be protected. "We two are part of the same organisation. Naturally, there will be agreement in places that reflect the stand of the organisation. And there will be different views in personal assessments, he said.

It may be recalled that Pinarayi was the architect of the PDP-CPM tie-up after Madani was released from the Coimbatore jail in 2007. There were opposition from within the party, especially from the faction led by V S Achuthanandan, against the alliance with an organisation that is facing extremist allegation. But Pinarayi's line overpowered the opposition and PDP continued to support the CPM in all the elections.

'CM keeping away minorities to strengthen ties with RSS'

T'PURAM: Congress state president K Sudhakaran said that Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's untouchability towards minority organisations is a part of the CPM's efforts to strengthen its ties with the RSS. He said that the CPM has been distancing itself from Jamaat-e-Islami, with which it had maintained close ties for four decades, and the PDP, with which it had openly entered into an electoral alliance in 2009, to satisfy the Sangh Parivar leadership.

Sudhakaran took up cudgels against the CPM and CM at a time when the state is witnessing three by-elections.

FOREST DEPT TO RECRUIT 14 KAVADIS FOR BANNERGHATTA

BENGALURU: As the Karnataka forest department and the Bannerghatta Biological Park (BBP) management await the postmortem report of the 20-year-old kavadi Gopal, who died while bathing his 10-year old tusker Sampath, in the zoo lake, the department is now working on recruiting 14 kavadis as permanent staffers. The criteria for selecting them will be stringent, especially that the kavadis must know swimming. "Since it is expected that the kavadis are well trained in tree climbing, elephant climbing and swimming, it was never checked. But now to ensure that such incidents do not happen in BBP or in any other elephant camp, next time any kavadi is being recruited, it will be ascertained. More so it will be one of the criteria in the recruitment process," said a forest department official. Presently there are around 26 kavadis working in BBP along with one mahout who is a permanent recruit from the forest department and is to retire in the next two years. They are handling 28 elephants in BBP.

Mining case: Sentences must run concurrently, says court

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

SANTHOSH Gajanan Bhat, Judge of the special court to try cases against sitting and former MPs/MLAs, pronounced the quantum of punishment in all the cases.

The court ordered that the sentence imposed under each offence should run concurrently and the accused shall be entitled for the period of set off as contemplated under Section 428 of CrPC, for the period of detention they have already undergone, if any, as undertrial prisoners in these cases.

Though the court stated that the sentences for different offences in each case run currently, it has not passed an order that all the sentences in six cases should run concurrently.

Therefore, the convicted can move the special court or the high court to order that all the sentences run concurrently.

Acting under Section 357(A) of CrPC, the court said compensation should be paid to the victim -- the state -- and hence, the entire penalty amount should be forfeited to the state. The accused were sentenced under the provisions of 120 (B), 420, 409 of IPC and provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act.

EXPRESS READ

Tourism society opposes hike in palace entry fee

BENGALURU : Members of the Karnataka Tourism Society on Friday penned a letter to the state government opposing the decision of a sudden steep entry fee hike to Mysuru Palace, which came into effect from October 25, 2024. In the letter, submitted to tourism secretary Salma K Fahim, they requested to defer the 10 fold hike in such a short notice. They point that this is against the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) guidelines. According to the revision, domestic tourists now have to pay Rs 120 and foreigners Rs 1000, from Rs 100. "Foreign tourist arrivals into Karnataka in particular and to India in general is yet to come up to the pre-COVID level and is expected to increase in 2025-26. Also, whenever such revisions are envisaged by ASI, they are announced at least six months in advance so that inbound travel operators can factor the new pricing when making proposals to foreign tour operators," said S Mahalingaiah, Society, Secretary.

Most water samples tested not potable

Tumakuru: In a twist to the deaths of two persons after consuming suspected contaminated drinking water at Soralamavu village, in Chikkanayakanahalli taluk, the analysis of the samples in the laboratory revealed most of the sources of water were not potable. Gundamma (60) and Bhuvaneshwari (13) died last week. The samples from seven different sources which supply the water to the village were drawn and tested in the Zilla Panchayat laboratory. Of which one proved potable, two suspicious and four not potable. The MPN count ranged between 0-20 percent. The ZP CEO Prabhu G, speaking to TNIE clarified that action has been taken against the concerned officials, and the issue will be addressed by taking steps to chlorinate the water. But the people were not using the water from the RO plants feeling that it tastes otherwise, he blamed. Across the district, there were 1,456 RO plants in the working condition, he added.

Police arrive on time, save man waiting on rail tracks to end life

RISHITA KHANNA @Bengaluru

WHAT could have ended in a tragedy turned into a rescue operation by the Bengaluru Rural police, who intervened just in time to save a man on the railway tracks, waiting for a train to end his life.

On Thursday, after a heated argument with his wife, Satish (name changed), a labourer, left home and headed toward the Rajankunte railway track.

He then called his sister Latha and told her he was tired of constant fights with his wife and wanted to end his life.

Latha tried to calm him down, but was shocked when Satish told her he was already on the railway tracks. Latha, who is from Addiganahalli village, called 112 and narrated the situation to ASI Nagesh, who was on patrol duty.

The police could trace the location of Latha's number, but she was far from the scene, making it difficult for the police to locate him. Even as the policemen drove towards the railway tracks, they asked for Satish's number. When Nagesh and APC Sanjeev Kumar arrived at the spot, Satish was lying on the tracks, even as the train was approaching him.

Satish saw the policemen and started running towards the train. The officers, however, chased him and managed to rescue him just in time.

Satish is now being counselled. "While many believe police never arrive on time, they should not jump to conclusions," Bengaluru Rural SP CK Baba said, urging people to call 112 anytime they are in distress.

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KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-TENDER NOTICE

Tender No : 1sr Re E-TenderWRD/KWA-CE(SR)/TR/3288/2024_5_1_1/1

Jal Jeevan Mission - Phase 2-Kanjirappally Panchayath - Construction of 50000L Sump cum Booster Pump House and providing Water supply facilities at Koovapally in Kanjirappally Panchayat and Chirakkadavu Local body - Package 2-Construction of 5.25 LL OHSR at Ponkunnam and 2 LL OHSR at GH Kanjirappally-General Civil Work. EMD: Rs. 200000; Tender fee: Rs. 11025+ (1985 gst); Last Date for submitting Tender : 13-11-2024, 03:00:pm; Phone : 04812562745 Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in www.etenders.kerala.gov.in

KWA-JB-GL-6-777-2024-25 Superintending Engineer, PH Circle, Kottayam

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APPENDIX- IV-A [See proviso to rule 8 (6)]
Sale notice for sale of immovable properties

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Symbolic (whichever is applicable) possession which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **Indian Bank**, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is" "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on **13.11.2024**, for recovery due to the Indian Bank, Secured Creditor, from the Borrowers.The specific details of the property intended to be brought to sale through e-auction mode are enumerated below:

Indian Bank, Avenue Road Branch Ph. No:7003271989

SI No.1: Name of the Borrowers:1)Mr.Bhaskar S/o Babu and 2) Mrs Padmavathy W/o Bhaskar (Name and address of the borrower/ guarantor) Address (i) House no 07, Lakshmi Flour Mill Road, Ashvanth Nagara Post, Bangalore 560 077 address (ii) Property beariang no 29, formed out of no7/2, Khata no 2174, Shanbog Compound, Thanisandra Village, K.R. Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore 560 077 .Amount Recovery : Rs. 38,34,637/- (Thirty eight lakh thirty four thousand six hundred thirty seven only) as on 24/07/2024 due Pls Interest and expenses thereon. **Detailed description of the Property:**All the piece and parcel of immovable property bearing Site no 29 (formed out of property no 7/2) Khata no 2174 situated at Thanisandra Village, Krishnarajapura Hobli, East taluk Bangalore, now within the limits of BBMP, and measuring East to west: 40 feet,North to South: 20 feet ,totally measuring 800 sq.feet, and bounded by East by: 20 feet Road, West by:site no 30 ,North by: property of T.S Ram Murty South by: Site no 36 And Residential Building theron.

Encumbrances on property	**NIL**
Reserve Price	**Rs 72,36,000/- (Rupees Seventy two lakh thirty six thousand only)**
EMd Amount	**Rs 7,24,000/-**
Bid incremental amount	**Rs.10,000/-**
Date and time of e-auction	**Dt 13.11.2024 between 10:00AM to 5.00 PM**
Property ID No	**IDIB6568758294**

QR Code

Contact Person: 1. Mr K Prabhakar Sarma, Mobile 7731006151 (Name and Mobile No. Of Authorised Officer) 2. Mrs/miss Miki, Mobile 7003271989 (Name and Mobile No. of Branch Manager)

Indian Bank, Basavangudi DVG Road Branch Ph. No:8050291603

SI No.2: Name of the Borrowers:Mr.Sandeep Prakash (Borrower/Mortgager) No 122, Yemlore Main Road Bangalore South-560037.Amount Recovery : Rs.79,12,874.34/- (Rupees Seventy nine lakh twelve thousand eight hundred seventy four and thirty four paisa Only) Home Loan and Home loan plus balance as on 21.10.2024 with further interest & Charges . Detailed description of the Property: All the piece and parcel residential House property OYHA/HIG-1857/I Situated at Srirampura 2nd Stage Mysore- 570034 Karnataka. Site measuring East to West 18.00 meters and North to South 12.00 Meter. RCC residential house constructed thereon measuring 825 square feet. And bounded on:East: Site No. 1864 and 1865 ,West : Road,North : Site No 1857/H,South : Site No. 1857/J.

Encumbrances on property	**NIL**
Reserve Price	**Rs.1,31,00,000/-**
EMd Amount	**Rs.13,10,000/-**
Bid incremental amount	**Rs.10,000/-**
Date and time of e-auction	**13.11.2024, 10.00 am to 5.00pm**
Property ID No	**IDIB50442420099**

Contact Person: 1.Authorised Officer Name: Mr.VIKAS CHANDRA PRABHAKAR Mobile No. : 9449864113
2. Branch Manager Name :Mrs.S.Ramya Mobile No.:8050291603

Indian Bank, Basavangudi Branch Ph. No:94498 64114

SI No.3: Name of the Borrowers:) Mr. Babu George, S/o Varghese George, No.408, Sai Platinum, Opp. Kundalahalli, ITPL Road Bangalore. 2) Mrs Girijamma V, W/o Babu George,No.408, Sai Platinum, Opp. Kundalahalli, ITPL Road Bangalore. **Amount Recovery : Rs.54,71,396.84/- (Rupees Fifty four** lakh seventy one thousand three hundred ninty six and eighty four paisa Only) (as on 21.10.2024.) due Pls Interest and expenses thereon. **Detailed description of the Property:**All the Piece and parcel of the property bearing converted land vide conversion order dated 12.04.2004 passed by Special Deputy Commissioner (Revenue) in no, BDS.ALN(s)SR(KT): 171/2003-04 in Sy No 80 of Kengeri Village, Kengeri Hobli Bangalore South Taluk measuring 3 acres ¼ Guntas or 1,30,953 sqft presently BBMP Khatha no 4260/431/80 and bounded on: East by: Road heading from Kengeri to Hemmigepura and then property purchased by Smt. Geetha ,West by: Private Property thereafter Vrushabhavathi River,North by: Pathway heading from Kengeri to Hemmigepura South by: Private property, Kadirappa's Land
Schedule B Property:520 sqft of undivided share right title and interest in the land in the Schedule 'A' property
Schedule C Property:A Residential apartment 2BHK bearing No. D-602 in the Fifth Floor 'D' Block of the building constructed and known as 'Ramanuja Enclave' with a super built up area of 1201 sqft along with one covered car parking No. D-602 in the basement with proportionate share in common areas such as passages lobbies lift and staircase etc contained in the multistoried building constructed on the Schedule 'A' Property

Encumbrances on property	Nil
Reserve Price	**Rs.44,00,000/-**
EMd Amount	**Rs.4,40,000/-**
Bid incremental amount	**Rs.10,000/-**
Date and time of e-auction	**13.11.2024, 10.00 am to 5.00pm**
Property ID No	**IDIB6529735613**

QR Code

Contact Person: 1. (Vikash Chandra Prakash, Mobile 9449864113)
2. (Pravakar Choudhary Branch Manager (9449864114)

Indian Bank, Jayanagar 4th Block branch Ph. No:8050291621

SI No4: Name of the Borrowers:)1.Mrs. Divya D D/o Sri Devwgowda(Borrower) Add:-No.34, Vasundara Nilaya, 1st Main Road3rd Cross, Sadashivanagara, Nelamangala Bangalore-562123. Add-Flat No 141-S2 Second Floor,Site No .141,Katha No.498, 3rd Stage Athmeeya Geleyara Balaga Gruha Nirmana Sahakara Sangha Layout Chikkasandra Village Yeshwanthapura Hobli Bangalore North,Bangalore-560107 Add:-Madhihalli Hobli, Siddanahalli Yelahanka Belur Hassan, Somanahalli, Bangalore-573216
Amount Recovery : 49,55,706.14 (Rs. Fourth nine lakh fifty five thousand seven hundred six and sixteen paisa only) (as on 24.07.2024) Pls Interest and expenses thereon. **Detailed description of the Property:Schedule 'A' Property:**All that piece and parcel of Property site bearing No.141, Khata No.498, situated at Chikkasandra Village, Yeshwanthpura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, situated in Sy. Nos.9,10/1,10/2,10/3,10/4,11/1,11/2,12/1,12/2,13,14/1,14/2,14/3,14/4,14/6,16/1,16/2,16/3,17,18,19,21/1,21/2,21/3,21/4,21/5,21/6,22,49 and 50 in the layout formed by Athmeeya Geleyara Balaga Gruha Nirmana Sahakara Sangha Limited, 3rd stage, presently comes under BBMP Limits. Measuring on East to West: 40 feet and North to South: 61 feet, totally measuring 2440 sqft and Boundaries: East by : Site No. 140 West By: site no 142 North By : Road South By : Site Nos. 149 & 150
Schedule 'B' Property:1/6th Undivided share, right title and interest and ownership equivalent to 406.667 square feet in the land **Schedule A property.**
Schedule 'C' Property: All that piece and parcel of Flat bearing No.S-2, 2nd floor, measuring about 1100 sqft super built up area with Ceramic Flooring and a Car pa rking in Basement Floor, now BBMP Khata No. 498/141/5, BBMP Shettyhalli Ward No. 12, Chikkasandra, Bangalore.East by: Corridor ,West by: Open Space,North by: Staircase & Flat No S-1, South by: Open Space

Encumbrances on property	Nil
Reserve Price	**Rs. 40,00,000.00**
EMd Amount	**Rs. 4,00,000.00**
Bid incremental amount	**Rs.10,000/-**
Date and time of e-auction	**13.11.2024, 10.00 am to 5.00pm**
Property ID No	**IDIB7088594922**

QR Code

Contact Person: 1. (Mr. VIKAS CHANDRA PRABHAKAR, 9449864113)
2. (Mr. SAMEER KALRA, 8050291621)

Indian Bank, Richmond Circle branch Ph. No:94498 64133

SI No.5: Name of the Borrowers:)1) Mr K V PRAKASH (borrower) S/o Lt Venkatesaiah AMRUTURU, Hobli Kunigal Korati K. Honnamachanahalli Tumkur Karnataka 572111.2)Mrs Meenakshi (Co Borrower) W/o K V PrakashAMRUTURU, Hobli Kunigal Korati K. Honnamachanahalli Tumkur Karnataka 572111 .3) Mr Krishna (Guarantor) S/o NarayanaNo 7, 2 nd cross, Ramaih layout Peeniya 2 nd stage Bangalore 560058. Amount Recovery : Rs. 25,27,956.00/- (Twenty five lakh twenty seven thousand nine hundred fifty six only)) (as on 30.09.2024)) Pls Interest and expenses thereon. **Detailed description of the Property:**All that piece and parcel of Residential Property bearing Western portion of site no 101 present BBMP Khatha no 101/1/995 situated at Layout formed by Guest Keen Williams PPD Employees House building Co- op society (GKW) in the lands formed in sy no 111/1,111/2A,111/3 of Laggere village Yeshwanthapur Hobli , Bangalore North Taluk , measuring East to west : towards northern side 1 feet towards southern side 18 feet , north to south towards eastern side 40 feet and western side 44.6 feet totally 401.85 Sq feet Bounded by the following boundaries Bounded by: East By: remaining portion of site no 101 West By: private property North by: site no 12 outh By: 40 feet road

Encumbrances on property	Nil
Reserve Price	**Rs 16,00,000/-**
EMd Amount	**Rs 1,60,000/-**
Bid incremental amount	**Rs.10,000/-**
Date and time of e-auction	**13.11.2024, 10.00 am to 5.00pm**
Property ID No	**IDIB6562636511**

Contact Person: 1. Prabhakar Sarma K-AO_ 7731006151
2 Divyakumari_BM_Richmond Circle_9449864133

Indian Bank, Sultanpalya branch Ph. No:94498 64107

SI No.6: Name of the Borrowers:)11) Mr Girish N (Borrower and Mortgagor) S/o Shri T N Murry 2) 2) Mrs Sumathi N (co borrower) W/o N Girish, both address 1)Address 1: Ramanuja Enclave" apartment flat no C-106 Ground Floor, C-Bloack property bearing Sy No 80,BBMP Khata No 4260/431/80 Kodipalya Main Road Kengeri village kengeri hobli Bengaluru -560060 Address 2: 2nd Block 3rd 'A' Cross,4Th main Shakthi Nagar Mysuru-570029 Address 3: No 506,4th floor, Malnad Arcade SCT ollege Kaggadasapura Main Road Vigananagar Bangalore .Bangalore 560075 Amount Recovery : Rs.53,48,855,69/- (Rupees Fifty three lakh fourth eight thousand eight hundred fifty five and sixty nine paisa Only) (as on 23.10.2024) Pls Interest and expenses thereon. **Detailed description of the Property:** Description of the immovable Property **SCHEDULE:**The specific details of the assets in which security interest is created are enumerated here under:
Schedule A Property:All the Piece and parcel of the property bearing converted land vide conversion order dated 12.04.2004 passed by Special Deputy Commissioner (Revenue) in no, BDS.ALN(s)SR(KT): 171/2003-04 in Sy no 80 of Kengeri Village, Kengeri Hobli Bangalore South Taluk measuring 3 acres ¼ Guntas or 1,30,953 sqft presently BBMP Khatha no 4290/431/80 and bounded on: East by: Road heading from Kengeri to Hemmigepura and then property purchased by Smt. Geetha West by: Private Property thereafter Vrushabhavathi River North by : Pathway heading from Kengeri to Hemmigepura South by: Private property, Kadirappa's Land
Schedule B Property:520 sqft of undivided share right title and interest in the land in the Schedule 'A' property
Schedule C Property:A Residential apartment 2BHK bearing no C-106 in the Ground Floor 'C' Block of the building constructed and known as 'Ramanuja Enclave' with a super built up area of 1230 sqft along with one covered car parking no C-106 in the basement with proportionate share in common areas such as passages lobbies lift and staircase etc contained in the multistoried building constructed on the Schedule 'A' Property

Encumbrances on property	Nil
Reserve Price	**Rs 43,00,000/-**
EMd Amount	**Rs 4,30,000/-**
Bid incremental amount	**Rs.10,000/-**
Date and time of e-auction	**13.11.2024, 10.00 am to 5.00pm**
Property ID No	**IDIB6568439890**

QR Code

Contact Person: 1. ABHINAY KUMAR REDDY-9449864134 2. NEHA SAINI-9449864107

Bidders are advised to visit the website (https://www.ebkray.in) of our e auction service provider PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd. to participate in online bid. For Technical Assistance Please call 8291220220. For Registration status and for EMD status please email to support.ebkray@psballiance.com.For property details and photograph of the property and auction terms and conditions please visit: https://www.ebkray.in and for clarifications related to this portal, please contact PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd, Contact No. 8291220220.Bidders are advised to use Property ID Number mentioned above while searching for the property in the website with https://www.ebkray.in

Date:25.10.2024
Place :Bangalore
Sd/-Authorised Officer, Indian Bank

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank

(A GOVERNMENT OF INDIA UNDERTAKING)

MID CORPORATE BRANCH, Basavanagudi #69, Ground Floor, 9th Main, JayaNagar, 3rd Block, Bangalore-560011

SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Properties under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged to the Secured Creditor, the Symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of MID Corporate Branch, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru of the Canara Bank, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on **14.11.2024 (11.30 AM TO 12.00 PM)**, for recovery of **Rs.33,64,83,550.30** (Rupees Thirty Three Crore Sixty Four Lakhs Eighty Three Thousand Five Hundred and Fifty and Paise Thirty Only) as on 24.10.2024 with further interest and cost thereon due to the MID Corporate Branch, Bengaluru of Canara Bank from **1. M/s Imperial Constrafin Pvt Ltd** No. 134, 3rd Cross, Dollars Colony, JP Nagar, 4th Phase Bengaluru-560078.
The Reserve Price and Earnest Money Deposits details are as under & the Earnest Money Deposit shall be deposited on or before **14.11.2024** at 5.00 pm by way of DD favouring **Authorized Officer Canara Bank MID Corporate Branch, Basavanagudi** or through online payment to **Account No.209272434 (IFSC CNRB0010697).**

(Rs.in lacs)

Lot	Details of property	Reserve Price	EMD	Incremental Value
1.	Item No 1: Vacant Land at No.36, Sy. No.20/3, Uttarahalli, Manavarte Kaval Village, Bangalore-560062. Extent of site is 175.46 sqmt;	1,60,00,000/-	16,00,000/-	1,00,000/-

Known encumbrances, if any: Not to the knowledge of the Bank.
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's website (www.canarabank.com) or may contact Assistant General Manager, MID Corporate Branch, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru, Canara Bank, Ph. No.9920514482 and 9686993248 during office hours on any working day.

Place: Bangalore
Date :24.10.2024

Sd/-
Authorised Officer
Canara Bank

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಅಲ್ಪಸಂಖ್ಯಾತರ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ

ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಆಸಂಕಇ/ಹೊ.ಸಂ.ಸಿ.ಟಿ/ಸಿಆರ್–28/2024–25 ದಿನಾಂಕ:25–10–2024

ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬರುವ ಅಲ್ಪಸಂಖ್ಯಾತರ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ ವತಿಯಿಂದ ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿರುವ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿ ನಿಲಯಗಳು/ ವಸತಿ ಶಾಲೆಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಕಛೇರಿ/ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಖಾಲಿ ಇರುವ ವಿವಿಧ ವೃಂದದ ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಹೊರ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಏಜೆನ್ಸಿಯಿಂದ ಮಾನವ ಸೇವೆಯನ್ನು 2024–25ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ತಾತ್ಕಾಲಿಕವಾಗಿ ಪಡೆಯುವ ಸಲುವಾಗಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅನ್ನು Online System (www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in) ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. 1) ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗೆ ಇಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 124.00 ಲಕ್ಷ ಹಾಗೂ ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 1.86 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು. 2) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಫಾರಂ ಅಪ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಲು ಪ್ರಾರಂಭಿಸುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 25–10–2024. 3) ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಅರ್ಹ ಅರ್ಜಿದಾರರು ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 08–11–2024. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಅಲ್ಪಸಂಖ್ಯಾತರ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಜ್ಯೋತಿನಗರ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು (ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 08262 – 295848) ಇವರನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/– ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ,
ಅಲ್ಪಸಂಖ್ಯಾತರ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ

SBI STATE BANK OF INDIA

Retail Assets Central Processing Centre, Yelahanka (18994)
No.5/1, Prestige Star Building, I Floor, Ring Road, Near Mother Dairy, Yelahanka Newtown, Bengaluru-560065 Tel:080-29720743/45/49, Email ID:sbi.18994@sbi.co.in

NOTICE TO THE BORROWER & LEGAL HEIRS OF THE DECEASED BORROWER

(UNDER SUB SECTION (2) OF SECTION 13 OF THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS & ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 (HEREINAFTER CALLED ACT)

A notice is hereby given that the following Borrower Sri Raghavendra B & legal heirs of the Borrower Smt. R Yashoda, who have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the credit facility availed by them from the Bank and the loan accounts have been classified as Non Performing Assets (NPA). The notices were issued to them under Section 13(2) of Securitization and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 on their last known addresses. But they have been returned un-served and as such they are hereby informed by way of this public notice.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower & A/c No.	Details of Properties/ Address of Security Assets to be Enforced Borrower	Date of Notice	Date of NPA	Amount outstanding (As on the date of notice)
1	**A/c No. HL 31497286731** **1. Sri. Raghavendra.B** S/o Late R.Yashoda and Borrower & Legal Heir of Late R.Yashoda, Major, No.17, MIG, 707, 4th Phase, Yelahanka New Town, BBMP Ward No.29, Bengaluru – 560064. **2. Smt.Nirmala.B** D/o Late R.Yashoda and Legal Heir of Late R.Yashoda, Major, No.17, MIG, 707, 4th Phase, Yelahanka New Town, BBMP Ward No.29, Bengaluru – 560064.	**SCHEDULE"A":** (Description of the secured propertyagainst which the notice is issued) **SCHEDULE A PROPERTY :** All that piece and parcel of the property bearing No.17, in MIG-I 63, experimental houses, experimental scheme extension, Yelahanka New Town, Bangalore North Taluk now area comes under the jurisdiction of BBMP, Yelahanka Sub- Division, it had allotted the Municipal No.932/17 and the area called as 4th phase, BBMP Ward No.29 which measuring East to West: 15 meters and North by South: 6 meters and bounded on:East by: House No.11, West by: Road, North by: House No.18, South by: Road. **SCHEDULE B PROPERTY :** All that piece and parcel of the South Eastern portion of the schedule A property bearing No.17, MIG-I in experimental scheme extension, Yelahanka Town, Bangalore North Taluk now area comes underthe jurisdiction of BBMP, Yelahanka Sub- Division, it had allotted the Municipal No.932/17 and the area called as 4th phase, BBMP Ward No.29 which measuring East to West: 7.5 meters or 25 feet and North by South: 6 meters or 20 feet, standing in the name of Late R. Yashoda W/o Sri.G.Balakrishnaiah and bounded on: East by: House No.11, West by: Property gifted to Nirmala and then Road, North by: House No.18,South by: Road together with 3 square RCC Roofed mosaic flooring building constructed on the ground floor.. Gift Deed dated 28.02.2008 registered in favour of late R.Yashoda W/o Sri.G.Balakrishnaiah in Book No.1 under Document NoYAN-1-03361-2007-08 stored in CD No.YAND302 at the Office of Senior Sub Registrar, Yelahanka, Bengaluru on 28.02.2008.	**22.11.2023**	**29.10.2023**	**Rs.9,31,623/-** (Rupees Nine Lakh Thirty One Thousand Six Hundred Twenty Three Only) as on 20.11.2023 along with further interest at contractual rate from 21.11.2023 on the aforesaid amount together with incidental expenses, cost, charges, etc.

The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above Borrower /legal heirs of the deceased borrower is hereby called upon to make payment of outstanding amount along with future interst at contractual rate with incidential express cost, charges ect,within 60 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which further steps will be taken after expiry of 60 days from the date of this notice under sub-section (4) of Section 13 of Secutitization and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security interest Act, 2002.
Your kind attention is invited to provisions of sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the SARFAESI Act whereunder you can tender the entire amount of outstanding dues together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred by the Bank only till the date of publication of the notice for sale of the secured asset(s) by public auction, by inviting quotations, tender from public or by private treaty. Please also note that if the entire amount of outstanding dues together with the costs, charges and expenses incurred by the Bank is not tendered before publication of notice for sale of the secured assets by public auction, by inviting quotations, tender from public or by private treaty, you may not be entitled to redeem the secured asset(s).

Place: Bengaluru
Date : 22.11.2023

Sd/- Authorised Officer & Chief Manager
State Bank of India
RACPC, Yelahanka, Bengaluru

बैंक ऑफ इंडिया Bank of India BOI

Bengaluru Zone - #11, Kempegowda Road, Bengaluru - 560 009. | **Phone** : 080-2295 9400 **Fax** : 080 - 2228 9054

[Rule -8 (1)]

POSSESSION NOTICE

(For Immovable property)

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Bank of India, under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under **Section 13 (12), read with rule 3** of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a **demand notice dated 26.07.2024** calling upon **the Mrs. Regila Iyyai Pillai,** Marwan Building, Flat No 13, Salahuddin (Behind Asiana Hotel), Dubai, United Arab Emirates - 557430, **Indian address:** No. 11-116, South Peyodu, Azhagiyapandipuram Post Kanyakumari, Tamilnadu 629851 and also at Flat No 110 in JJ ELITA,1ST FLOOR Arekere range, Nyanappanahalli division and village, Bengaluru south taluk, Bangalore 560076 and **Power of Attorney holder Mr. Anil Subramani** R/o No 29/A Flat no 1 GF 3rd Main, 3rd cross Balajinagar, S G Palya, DRC POST Bangalore 560029 to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs. 1,20,40,723.40 (Rupees One Crore Twenty Lakhs Forty thousand seven hundred twenty-three and Forty paisa) + uncharged interest** for Home Loan account 849075110000355 within 60 (sixty) days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under **sub-section (4) of Section 13 of Act read with rule 8** of the **Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002** on this the **24th day of October of the year 2024.**
The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of **Bank of India** for an amount of **Rs.1,20,40,723.40/- and interest thereon.**
The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Residential apartment flat no 110, in J J Elita,first floor in BBMP Khatha no 602, **old Sy no 44 New no's 44/1,44/2,44/3 & 44/4** situated in Arekere sub range ,Nyanappanahalli Division and Village, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore Urban District-560078, Measuring 1904 Sq Feet super built up area of together with one car parking and undivided share of 450 sq feet in apartment land having equal rights in common area of the apartment. **Owned by Mrs. Regilla Iyyai Pillai Bounded on : On the North by:** Private Property, **On the South by:** Nyanappanahalli Hulimavu Road, **On the East by:** Nyanappanahalli Main Road, **On the West by:** Private Property

Date : 24-10-2024 **Sd/- Authorised Officer**
Place : Bangalore **Bank of India**

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

KPTCL

(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No. CEE/T&P/SE1/EET2/KCO153/2024-25/4859-74 **Date: 25.10.2024**

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited invites Bids on electronic mode for the following Work against Enquiry Number:

Enquiry No./Name of the Work
Enquiry No. KPTCL/2024-25/UC/WORK_INDENT1362
Construction of **24.52 Route km** of **66kV 1000sqmm SC UG cable lines** and **66kV Terminal Bays** for evacuating power from proposed **220/66/11kV Banashankari 6th stage** Substation along with associated dismantling work in Bengaluru South Taluk, Urban District on **Total Turnkey** Basis.

The bids will be received through KPP Portal only. The details regarding participation in the e-tendereing process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink "E Procurement KPTCL" or **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **29.10.2024 at 15:00hrs.** Last date & time for receipt of bids is **28.11.2024 at 15:00hrs. Any extension of Due date for Bid submission will be intimated in the Karnataka Public Procurement portal.** Any details required in this regard can also be obtained from the Office of the undersigned during Office hours.

All Corrigendum/Addendums shall be noticed by the bidders before the last date of submission of the Bids.

Sd/- **Chief Engineer, Electricity, Tendering & Procurement, KPTCL, III Floor, Kaveri Bhavan, Bengaluru – 560 009. Tel : 080 22274744.**

Indian Overseas Bank

REGIONAL OFFICE - SALEM : 7/54, Ideal Garden Complex (2nd Floor) Five Roads, Salem, Tamil Nadu - 636 004. Phone : 0427-2448440, 2448690, 2448540

MEGA E-AUCTION SALE ON 13-11-2024
FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to Rule 6(2) & Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s), Guarantors (s) and Mortgagor (s) that the below described immovable/ movable properties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive/physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of **Indian Overseas Bank** will be sold on **"AS IS WHERE IS", AS IS WHAT IS", and "WHATEVER THERE IS"** condition on **13.11.2024** between **11.00 AM and 12.00 PM** through **website : https://ebkray.in/eauction-psb/bidder-registration** and **(https://ebkray.in)** towards recovery of Bank's secured debts together with cost, charges and future interest thereon and details of the e-Auction are furnished below.
The interested bidders can participate in the E-Auction after remitting 10% of the Reserve Price mentioned against the respective auction property as Earnest Money Deposit (EMD).

THIMMAPURAM BRANCH : 5/196, Salem Main Road, Gandhi Nagar, Thimmapuram PO, Kaveripattinam Taluk, Thimmapuram-635112.

1) M/s. Sri Krishna Match Industries, Represented by its Prop. Mr. P. Krishnan, S.No.617/B1, Door No.3/362, Mittahalli Village, M. Sowlur, Mittahalli Panchayath, Opp. Dhorathi Amman Temple, Kaveripattinam, Krishnagiri Dist., PIN- 635112 **2) Mr.P.Krishnan,** S/o. Mr. N. Perumal, No.48/3, 2nd Cross, Ejipura, Bangalore South, Bangalore, Karnataka 560047

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY : 20.00 Cents or 8712 Sq.Ft., of land with building there on (3993.99 Sq.ft) situated at Sy.No.617/B1, Mittahalli Village, M.Sowlur, Mittahalli Panchayath, Opp. Dhorathi Amman Temple, Kaveripattinam, Krishnagiri Dist standing in the name of Mr.P.Krishnan within the following boundaries; East: Land Well of Perumal; West: Remaining land of Perumal and; North: Remaining Land of Perumal and South: Palacode Main Road.

Amount Outstanding :	Reserve Price	EMD	BID Multipler	Contact : Mrs.Vani
Rs.17,09,338/- (as on 30.09.2024)	Rs.40,27,000/-	Rs.4,02,700/-	Rs.50,000/-	Mob : 8925950968

Auction / bidding will initially be for a period of **10 (Ten)** Minutes with auto extension time of **10 (Ten)** minutes each till the sale is concluded. During the e-auction, bidders will be allowed to offer higher bid in inter-se bidding over and above the last bid quoted and the minimum increase in the bid amount must be of **Rs.50,000/-** to the last higher bid of the bidders. **** The H-1 bidder should close the Auction/Bid with at least one bid, i.e., Increment over and above the Reserve Price amount as mentioned in the sale notice. For known and unknown encumbrances, if any, it is the responsibility of the bidders to enquire on their own and Bank will not bear any responsibility in this regard. In the property value quoted under the Reserve Price is exclusive of the 1% TDS amount. Whereever, the H-1 bid amount is more than Rs.50.00 lakhs, the H-1 bidder/ purchaser should bear the 1% TDS on the H-1 bid amount and pay the 1% TDS into the PAN account of the owner/s of the auction property. Bank dues have priority over any other dues with reference to the property auctioned herein mentioned.** For the terms and conditions, please visit our web portal **https://ebkray.in/eauction-psb/bidder-registration** and www.iob.in/e-Auctions.aspx For further details regarding inspection of property/ e-auction, the intending bidders may contact the respective branch managers mentioned against each property or the Bank's approved service provider **M/s. PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd.,** having Registered office at Unit 1, 3rd Floor, VIOS Commercial Tower, Near Wadala Truck Terminal, Wadala East, Mumbai-400037 (Contact Phone & Toll free Numbers 8291220220, operation time of Help desk : 8:00 am to 8:00 pm). The intending Bidders /Purchasers are required to participate in the e-auction process at e-auction Service Provider's website **https://ebkray.in**

PLACE : Thimmapuram
DATE : 24-10-2024
Authorised Officer

बैंक ऑफ महाराष्ट्र Bank of Maharashtra

H O: Lokmangal, 1501, Shivajinagar, Pune-5

Zonal Office, Bengaluru : No. 465/A, 22nd Cross, 3rd Block, Opp: NMKRV College for Women, Jayanagar Bengaluru - 560011 **TELE :** 080-4656 1236 **E-mail:**dzmbengaluru@mahabank.co.in

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

POSSESSION NOTICE
For Immovable property [Appendix IV under the Act-Rule-8(1)]

WHEREAS, The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Bank of Maharashtra under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, and in exercise of the powers conferred under Sub-Section (12) of Section 13 read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002, issued a Demand Notice dated 09.08.2024 calling upon the borrower, **M/s. Kakuda Infra Private Limited and the guarantors Mr. Shakthi Venkatesh Maheshwari, Mr. Venkata Bramahaiah Kutala, Mrs. Mamatha & Mr. Raja @ Raju SC**, to repay amount aggregating **Rs.8,63,12,641.00 (Rupees Eight Crore Sixty Three Lakh Twelve Thousand Six Hundred Forty One only)** plus unapplied interest thereon as mentioned in the demand notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice. The notice was sent through Regd. AD Post as well as hand delivery.
The borrower as well as guarantors having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower as well as guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on this **24th day of October of the year 2024**.
The borrower as well as guarantors in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of Bank of Maharashtra, Indiranagar Branch, Bengaluru for an amount hereinabove mentioned.
The borrower's as well as the guarantor's attention are invited to provisions of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.
The details of the properties mortgaged to the Bank and taken possession by the Bank are as follows:

i) All that piece and parcel of residential Land bearing Site No.17 & 18, Assessment No.183/3, Khatha No.674/633/1/17 & 674/633/2/18 admeasuring area 2760 sq. ft. (Site No.17: 1260 sq. ft. & Site No.18: 1500 sq. ft.) with residential building consisting of G+3 constructed thereon admeasuring built up area 2000 sq. ft. in each Floor lying and situated at Village-Hunasamaranahalli, Suggata Road, Jala Hobli, Bengaluru-562 157 and the Sites are butted and bounded as under- **Site No.17 : On or towards North :** By Private Property. **On or towards South :** By Road. **On or towards East :** By Site No.18. **On or towards West :** By Private Property. **Site No.18 On or towards North :** By Private Property. **On or towards South :** By Road.**On or towards East :** By Site No.19 & 22.**On or towards West :** By Site No.17.

ii) All that piece and parcel of residential cum commercial Land bearing Survey No.192/7 admeasuring area 2400 sq. ft. with building consisting of G+3 constructed thereon admeasuring built up area 1750 sq. ft. in each Floor lying and situated at Village-Hunasamaranahalli, Suggata Road, Jala Hobli, Bengaluru-562 157 and the property is butted and bounded as under- **On or towards North :** By Land belongs to Muthappa. **On or towards South :** By Suggatta Road. **On or towards East :** By Land belongs to Muniraju.**On or towards West :** By Remaining portion of property.

Sd/- Chief Manager & Authorized Officer
Date :24/10/2024 **Bank of Maharashtra**
Place : Bangalore **Bangalore Zone**

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform General Public that my client/s is intending to purchase the schedule property belonging to Smt.Udipi Sudha Rau Alias U Sudha Rau, Wife of Dr.U Shankar Rau, Daughter of late G Vasudeva Rao, Aged about 76 Years, residing at Flat 3B, Third Floor, Vishal Bharathi, No:2/6, Valliammal Street, Kilpauk, Chennai – 600010.

Any, person, having any claim over the schedule property claiming through the predecessors in title or any other person, may lodge their objections or claims, in writing with all supporting documentary evidence by registered post with regard to such claim with the undersigned within 10 (ten) days hereof, failing which my client/s will proceed to conclude the Sale Transaction. Any claims lodged thereafter will not be entertained by my client/s;

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the entire residential property bearing Municipal No.113 (earlier CITB No.68), situated at Sixth Main Road, Fifth Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore, within the limits and administration of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, Bangalore, Corporation Ward No.168-Pattabhiramanagar (old ward No.58), PID No.58-106-113, together with structures standing thereon and bounded on the :

East by : Road;
West by : Property bearing CITB No:13;
North by : Property bearing CITB No:69;
South by: Road;

MEASURING: East to West: 60 ft.;
North to South: 40 ft.;

In all admeasuring 2,400 sq.ft.;

N S RACHANA,
N C JANARDHAN, ADVOCATE
Rachana Law Associates,
"Lakshmideep", I Floor, No:2980,
17th Cross, Banashankari II Stage,
BANGALORE – 560 070
PH : 9731810810/9886284325
Dt : 26-10-2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our client, **M/s. STI Engineers Pvt. Limited.,** represented by its Managing Director Sri. M. Nagesh is the absolute owner in peaceful possession and enjoyment of the land comprised in Sy.No.105/2B to an extent of 1 Acre 11 Guntas, duly converted from agricultural to non-agricultural residential purpose vide Official Memorandum, bearing No.ALN(SDH) SR/40/2013-14, dated 19.09.2013, situated at Bethanagere Village, Dasanapura Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, Bengaluru, which is morefully described and hereinafter called as Schedule Property having absolute right, title, interest over the same.

The M/s. STI Engineers Pvt. Limited had entered into an Agreement to Sell dated 06.06.2024, which is registered as a Document No. NGB-1-02167-2024-25, Book-I, registered on 13.06.2024, at the office of the Sub-Registrar, Nagarbhavi, Bengaluru, in respect of the Schedule Property with M/s. Swastik Ventures, a partnership firm represented by its partners. The said M/s. Swastik Ventures failed to complete their obligation and they were not ready and willing to perform their part of the contract as per the terms of the Agreement to Sell dated 06.06.2024. Hence, our client has terminated the Agreement to Sell dated 06.06.2024 entered between the parties in respect of the Schedule Property under the legal notice issued through its counsel on 25.10.2024.

Therefore, the general public, financial institutions, financiers etc., are hereby cautioned not to deal with the Schedule Property on the basis of the aforesaid Agreement to Sell dated 06.06.2024. Inspite of this Public Notice, if any transaction is entered into in relation to the Schedule Property, the same would be null and void and will not affect the absolute right, title, interest or possession of our client in any manner whatsoever in relation to the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All the piece and parcel of the land bearing Sy.No.105/2B, an extent of 1 Acre 11 Guntas, duly converted from agricultural to non-agricultural residential purpose vide Official Memorandum, bearing No.ALN(SDH) SR/40/2013-14, dated 19.09.2013, situated at Bethanagere Village, Dasanapura Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, Bengaluru and bounded on:

East by : Property in Sy.No.104;
West by : Remaining portion of the Property in Sy.No.105/2B and Property in Sy.No.105/2C
North by : Property in Sy.No.105/2A & Remaining portion of the Property in Sy.No.105/2B
South by : Road & Property in Sy.No.119/3.

Mr. ANIL KUMAR B S,
Mrs. VENKATADRI, Advocates
No.F-113, 4th Floor, Central Chambers,
II Main Road, Gandhinagar,
Bengaluru-560 009.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Under instructions from my client **Smt. Sindhu.N.** D/o Late. T Narayanappa R/at: No.104/3, 2nd Main Road, Parvathipura, Bengaluru 560 004, I issue this notice as follows,

1. My client instruct me to inform that, The schedule property being Neeraganti Inam Land was cultivating by grand father of my client namely, Thopayya S/o Thimmaiah The Tahasildar Anekal Taluk vide his order in case no. VOA 172/1981-82 dated: 17/05/1982 regranted schedule property in favour of her grand father Thopayya by imposing condition that the land should not be alienating for period of 15 years as contemplated U/S 7(A) of KVOA Act 1961.

2. My client instruct me to inform that, somebody after creating some documents, executed sale deed in respect of schedule property in favour of one Mr. Mohammed Mustafa S/o Chand Patel of Bengaluru through registered sale deed bearing no.1278/1996-97 dated: 14/06/1996 i.e. within prohibited period i.e. non alienation period of 15 years. Hence the purchaser will not get any title to the schedule property.

3. My client instruct me to inform that, she came to know very recently that, Mr. Mohammed Mustafa had sold schedule property to one Smt. Leelamma W/o Narayana. H of Bengaluru. through sale deed dated:27/08/2008 vide document no. SRJ-1-00921/2008- 09 and in turn said Leelamma has sold schedule property in favour of M/s Classic feather Lite estates LLP represented by its Partners Mr.Jawahar Gopal and Mr. Y.C. Sandeep Reddy having registered office at no.678 'Classic House' 4th floor, 17th Main, 6th A cross 3rd Block, Koramangala Bengaluru 560 034. Now my client came to know that, above said Jawahar Gopal and Y.C. Sandeep Reddy are trying to alienate schedule property in favour of some 3rd parties though right title and interest are not passed.

4. My client instruct me to inform that, the publics are hereby cautioned not to venture to purchase disputed property/schedule property which is belongs to my client and her family members. In spite of this notice if anybody entered into sale transaction with above said persons they will not get any right, title or interest over the schedule property since all the above sale transactions are illegal.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the land bearing Sy. No.153 new sy.no.153/2 measuring 1 acre 13 guntas situated at Sarjapura village and Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru Urban district and bounded on, **East by:** Land of Siddappa, **West by:** Land of Kaverappa, **North by :** Land of S.B KrishnaReddy and **South by:** land of Chamundamma.

M. RAMACHANDRA, Advocate
#4, 1st Floor, 3rd Cross, Kilari Road,
BENGALURU-560053.
Mob: 94809 12535. E-mail id:
ramachandram461@gmail.com,
Date:26-10-2024

LOST OF DOCUMENT

This is to notify the general public my client **Siddharth Chilukur** S/o Late.G. Koteswar, aged about 34 years, R/at No.121, Maharishi Bhagavat Apartment, 3rd Cross, 4th Block, Thyagarajanagar, Banashankari II Stage, Bengaluru South-560 070, I hereby inform the general public that, house shifting time misplace and my client father also died on 18/11/2020, I lost the original Sale Deeds (1) dated 04/11/2009 executed by Hajira Durani and others in favour of G.Koteswar Residential Plot bearing Sy. No.129/2, measuring 5¼ Guntas, situated at Huskur Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk Bengaluru Urban District and (2) dated 05-10-2018, executed by G.V. Satish Reddy GPA holder M.s N.D. Developers Pvt. Ltd., in favour of G.Koteswar.

Residential flat/Apartment unit bearing Flat No.602, measuring a super built up area of 1539 Sq.feet 3 BHK Flat, situated at Gunjur Village, Varthur Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk. I also complained at Vivek Nagar Police Lost Report No.1305747/2024 date: 26/10/2024

If the same is found by any one, kindly forward to me at the address morefully mentioned below or to my client. Contact No.9341973035.

N.V. MANJUNATHA, Advocate
No.3/2., 3rd Floor, Thimmaiah Towers,
1st Main, 1st Cross, Near Olympic
Sports, Gandhinagar, Bengaluru-560 009.
Mob:9341973035

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that our client is entering into an Sale deed to purchase the Schedule Property from its present owner **Mr. Chandrashekar Raju K.C** S/O K. Changama Raju, Aged 65, R/A. #44/4, District Fund Rod, 9th Block Jayanagar, B-560069

Any person/s having or claiming any manner of right, title, claim lien or interest in the Schedule Property may intimate the same in writing to the undersigned along with documentary evidence in support of their claim within 15 days from the date of this publication, failing which, our client will be advised to proceed with the conveyance as if no valid claims are subsisting against the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of Residential Apartment Unit bearing No.D-17, BBMP No.10/8-100, PID No.76-28-10/8-100, Ward No.111-Shanthala Nagar on the Fourth Floor, , along with Car Parking Space in the Basement bearing No.D-17, of the Residential Apartment Building known as "GOLDEN ORCHID" Constructed in Schedule 'A' Property, Mentioned hereinabove and Measuring about Super Built-up Area of 3300 Square Feet along with 1.353% Undivided share, right, title and interest and ownership in the land comprised in Schedule 'A' Property which works out of 1123.633 Square Feet of land area in Schedule 'A' Property Municipal No.10/8, Situated at Kasturba Road, Corporation Ward No.61 (New Ward No.76), Bangalore.

(Bharath Prakash)
#18-A, 2nd Floor, HMS Complex, Cubbonpet
Main Road, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560002.
Mob: 9742003920, 9886259921

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby informed to the General Public that my client **Mr. Bhupendra K. Parekh and Mr. Bhavesh B. Parekh, BEING THE CO-OWNERS,** have lost the **Original Registered Sale Deed dated 14-05-2004 registered as document No. RJN-00836/2004-05, Book-1, stored in CD No. RJND-40, in the Office of the Sub-Registrar, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru** in respect of the Schedule Property and accordingly the General Public are hereby informed that if any person holding/trace out the above said Original document and if any person/s or any Bank or any financial institution having any charge lien, right, title or interest over the Schedule Property should inform the undersigned with the relevant documentary evidence in person **within Fifteen (15) days** from the date of publication of this notice failing which the title of the Schedule Property will be presumed to be clear and marketable and my client will go further in respect of the said Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the **Residential Apartment bearing No. 207 in the Second Floor** of the residential complex known as **"BINDU JEERAWALA RESIDENCY"** admeasuring a total super built up area of 921 Sq.ft. together with 312 Sq.ft. of undivided share in the land constructed on the property bearing Corporation No.30/4 (old Site No. 31, thereafter 31/3 and 30/4, previously bearing old Municipal Nos. 29/5, 30/4 and 52/17, carved out of Survey No.107/2, Siddaramanna Dinne, Kethamaranahalli Dhakale, Yeshwanthpur Hobli, Bengaluru Taluk), situated at 46th Cross, 4th Block, (Siddaramanna Dinne), Rajajinagar, Bengaluru, Ward No.22 and bounded on:

East by : Road
West by : Private Property
North by : Road
South by : Private Property

R. Shailesh Kumar
SUSHEEL ASSOCIATES,
Law Firm, #138, No.F-1,
'Harshita Arcade', 1st Main,
Sheshadripuram, Bengaluru-20
Mobile : 9845009771
Bengaluru
Date : 26-10-2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

TO WHOMSOEVER IT MAY CONCERN

This is to notify the general public that **Mr. Pratham Kirtikumar Maliwad** and **Mrs. Monila Pratham Maliwad**, residing at B-804, Jain Heights East Parade, Ward No.81, L. Narayan Reddy Main Road, Vignan Nagar, Kaggadasapura, Bengaluru - 560075 had purchased the Schedule Property vide Sale Deed dated **25.07.2018,** registered before the Senior Sub-Registrar, Shivajinagar, Bengaluru bearing Document No. **SHV-1-02808-2018-19**, stored in C.D. No. **SHVD276**. They have misplaced/lost the Original Sale Deed and could not trace despite of diligent efforts. They have reported the same before the Karnataka State Police and an e-Lost report vide Lost Report No.**1118457/2024** is registered on **27.06.2024**. If any person finds the above-mentioned original Sale Deed or has any claim, kindly contact with original sale deed within 7 days from the date of notice at our office address below.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Apartment B-804, in 'B' Block, 2.5 BHK, in Eighth Floor of the apartment building 'Jain Heights - East Parade' constructed in Sy. No.72/1 and 72/2, situated at Kaggadasapura Village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk and Sy. No.160/2, situated at Vibhutipura Village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore, (BBMP Khata No.15/72/1).

SUNIL T. M, Advocate
GOVINDRAJ ASSOCIATES,
#2, Ground Floor, Belview Apartments,
No.7, Haudin Rd, Halasuru, Bengaluru,
Karnataka 560042. **Phone No. 9845330174,**
Office - 080 41516548

IN THE COURT OF THE 82nd ADDL. CITY CIVIL JUDGE AT BENGALURU (COMMERCIAL COURT) (CCH-83)

Commercial O.S. No. 676/2024

BETWEEN: Smt. Rathna, aged about 60 Years, W/o. Late Srinivasa Murthy .C, No.701, 7th Main, H.A.L. 2nd Stage, Indiranagar, Bengaluru-560 008. Represented by her GPA Holders

1. Sri. Bhargav Srinivasa, aged about 31 years, S/o. Late C. Srinivasamurthy, **2. Smt. Kavyashri Srinivasa**, aged about 36 years, D/o. Late C. Srinivasmurthy, Both residing at, No.701, 7th Main, HAL 2nd Stage, Indiranagar, Bengaluru-560 038

AND: M/s. Vijaya Builders & Developers, A Proprietorship Concern, Flat No.7, 123, Maruthi Nilaya, 6th Cross, Kaggadasapura, C.V. Raman Nagar, Bengaluru-560 078

Represented by its Sole Proprietor, Mr. P. Rakesh, S/o. Mr.Narasimha Reddy, Also at, No.700/A, 7th Main, HAL II Stage, Indiranagar, Bengaluru-560 038. ...
DEFENDANT

DEFENDANT: M/s. Vijaya Builders & Developers, A Proprietorship Concern, Flat No.7, 123, Maruthi Nilaya, 6th Cross, Kaggadasapura, CV Raman Nagar, Bengaluru-560 078. Represented by its Sole Proprietor. Mr. P. Rakesh, S/o Mr.Narasimha Reddy, Also at No.700/A, 7th Main, HAL II Stage, Indiranagar, Bengaluru-560 038

SUIT SUMMONS TO THE DEFENDANT

WHEREAS the Plaintiff has instituted the above suit against you for ejectment from the suit Schedule Property and other consequential relief/s. The Plaintiff has filed an I.A. under Order XXXIX Rule 1 & 2 of CPC seeking ex-parte Temporary Injunction. Upon hearing the Plaintiff on the said application, an ex-parte ad-interim order is granted restraining you, your men, agents, henchmen, legal representatives, servants or any other person/s acting or claiming through you from alienating or creating third party rights over the suit Schedule Property vide Order dated 27.04.2024. You are hereby summoned to appear in this Court in person or by a pleader on **02/12/2024** to answer the same, failing which the suit will be disposed of ex-parte on merits.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the office premises bearing No.700/A (rear portion of Municipal No.700), 7th Main, HAL 2nd Stage, Indiranagar, Bengaluru-560 038, bounded on the: **East by:** 701 Premises, **West by:** 699 Premises, **North by:** Remaining portion of Plaintiff's property, **South by:** Private Property.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Court, on this 22/10/2024

By order of the Court, Senior Sheristedar, Commercial Court Unit, City Civil Court, Bengaluru

Advocate for Plaintiff: **ABHINAV .R KUMAR AND KUMAR,** Advocates
F-113, Central Chambers, 2nd Main Road,
Gandhinagar, Bengaluru-560 009.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our clients, **M/s. STI Engineers Pvt. Limited** represented by its Managing Director Sri. M. Nagesh and Sri. R. Shivashankar Babu S/o. B.G. Ramaiah, is the absolute owner having right, title, interest, peaceful possession and enjoyment over the land bearing Sy.No.105/2A, an extent of 35 Guntas, duly converted from agricultural to non-agricultural residential purpose vide Official Memorandum, bearing No.ALN(SDH) SR/53/2013-14, dated 24.03.2014, situated at Bethanagere Village, Dasanapura Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, Bengaluru, which is morefully described and hereinafter called as Schedule Property.

M/s. STI Engineers Pvt. Limited and Sri. R. Shivashankar Babu had entered into an Agreement to Sell dated 06.06.2024, which is registered as a Document No.NGB-1-02169-2024-25, Book-I, registered on 13.06.2024 at the office of the Sub-Registrar, Nagarbhavi, Bengaluru, in respect of the Schedule Property with M/s. Swastik Ventures, a partnership firm represented by its partners.

The said M/s. Swastik Ventures failed to complete their obligation and they were not ready and willing to perform their part of contract as per terms of the Agreement to Sell dated 06.06.2024. Hence, our clients have terminated the Agreement to Sell dated 06.06.2024 entered between the parties in respect of the Schedule Property under the legal notice issued through their counsel on 25.10.2024.

Therefore, the general public, financial institutions, financiers etc., are hereby cautioned not to deal with the Schedule Property on the basis of the aforesaid Agreement to Sell dated 06.06.2024. Inspite of this Public Notice, if any transaction is entered into in relation to the Schedule Property, the same would be null and void and will not affect the absolute right, title, interest or possession of our clients in any manner whatsoever in relation to the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All the piece and parcel of the land bearing Sy.No.105/2A, an extent of 35 Guntas, duly converted from agricultural to non-agricultural residential purpose vide Official Memorandum, bearing No. ALN(SDH) SR/53/2013-14, dated 24.03.2014, situated at Bethanagere Village, Dasanapura Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, Bengaluru and bounded on:

East by : Property in Sy.No.105/1;
West by : Property in Sy.No.105/2B;
North by : Property in Sy.No.101;
South by : Property in Sy.No.105/2B & 104.

Mr. ANIL KUMAR B S,
Mrs. VENKATADRI, Advocates
No.F-113, 4th Floor, Central Chambers,
II Main Road, Gandhinagar,
Bengaluru-560 009.

QuoteExpress

PROBLEMS ARE NOT STOP SIGNS, THEY ARE GUIDELINES

ROBERT H SCHULLER

TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF TELANGANA LIMITED

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

The TGTRANSCO invites sealed bids for the following works.
Name of the works: 1) Spec. No.TGT-CONST-e-06/2024-25 - (i) DC Works - Shifting of existing 132KV DC/SC line (1.1 Km) from 220/132/33 KV SS Sircilla to M/s ReNew Ranga Reddy Solar Power Pvt Ltd at Sircilla for Railway line crossing at chainage No.102550 in sircilla district on Turnkey basis.
Note:- Further details can be seen @ http://www.eprocurement.telangana.gov.in Phone No.040-23396000,Extn:3396,3351

Sd/-
DIPR R.O. No. : 588-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2024-25 Chief Engineer/Construction

ANDHRA PRADESH CAPITAL REGION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Lenin Centre, Governorpet, Vijayawada - 520 002 (A.P.)

E PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

(1) RFP No. MAU61-PLG0AUD/2/2024-DP (2nd Call) **Dated: 26.10.2024**

Name of Work: "RFP for Selection of Architect providing Comprehensive Architectural Designs (Architecture, Engineering, Landscape, Interiors) for "Legislature and High Court Buildings" in Amaravati Government Complex."

(2) Rc.No. MAU61-PLG0AUD/3/2024-PLG (2nd Call) **Dated: 26.10.2024**

Name of Work: "RFP for Selection of Architect for providing Comprehensive Architectural services (Architecture, Interiors, Engineering, Landscape) for integrated development of Andhra Pradesh State Secretariat and Government Head of Departments (HoDs) Offices in Amaravati Government Complex.

The RFP can be downloaded on **www.apeprocurement.gov.in** from **27.10.2024 to 11.11.2024, 14:00 Hrs.** Due date for submission of Bid is **11.11.2024 @ 15:00 Hrs,** Technical bid opening on **11.11.2024 @ 16:00 Hrs.** Please refer to **www.apeprocurement.gov.in** for details.

For further clarifications, you may get in touch with Director - Planning, APCRDA, Vijayawada. Contact No: 70955 99004, Email id: sureshkumar.b@apcrda.org

Sd/- Commissioner, APCRDA, Vijayawada

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform to General Public that our clients Mrs. SHUBHDA had purchase the schedule property, The Mother deed-Registered document No 33017/2004-05 C.D. No. BASD151, on dated 24/3/2005. All That piece and parcel of Apt bearing No. 203, 2nd floor, of "Pruthvi Paradise". Situated at Bilekahalli Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, this document is lost , if any person is in possession of the above-mentioned documents is requested to hand over the same to the under mentioned Mobile No. within 7 days failing which it will be presumed that the said document has been irretrievably lost and not traceable. GOLDEN CHAIN LAW FIRM, Bommanahalli, Bangalore-68. 9448239328 ,9901204507

CLASSIFIEDS

grooms

WANTED GROOM

Vishwakarma (GS) Girl, Avittam, 25 years, 170 CM, ME(Bio- Tech) Native of Kollam, Kerala, Settled in Hyderabad. Seeking Suitable alliance

Contact :
9346170262
9849170262

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General public is hereby informed that, our clients proposes to purchase the below mentioned Schedule Property from its owners Smt. B.Sathyavathi @ Sathyavathi Bandaram, Sri. B. Deepak Reddy, Sri. B. Prem Sai Reddy, all residing at No. 3289, K.R. Road, Banashankari 2nd stage, Bangalore-560070.

It has been further represented by them that, they are the absolute owners and their title to the schedule property is clear, absolute and marketable and subsisting and that the Schedule Property is free from all encumbrances, claims, agreements, disputes, MOU, litigations, acquisitions, proceedings etc. and the above said ownersare in peaceful enjoyment and in possession of the Schedule Property and none else has got any right, title, interest or claim over the schedule property.

Any person/s, whomsoever having any right, title, interest, demand or claim in the schedule property or any part thereof are hereby requested to intimate to the undersigned in writing supported with the documentary proof within 8 days from the date of publication of this notice failing which it shall be presumed that, there are no claims on the Schedule Property or claims if any are given up and waived and the objections / claims received thereafter shall neither be entertained nor be binding on our clients and our clients will proceed and complete the sale transaction.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that agricultural land measuring 00 Acres 34 Guntas in Sy.No.96/12(Old Sy.No.96/6) situated at Avathi village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk and bounded by:-**East by**:Land belonging to Muniyamma, **West by**:Land belonging to Nagamma, **North by:** Land belonging to Muniyamma, **South by** : Land belonging to Kadirappa and Kondamuniyappa.

RAJARAM HEGDE, Advocate
No. 20/16-1,32nd Cross, Behind BWSSB Office,
Kumaraswamy Layout, Bangalore – 560 078, Mobile: 8971475228.

HDB Financial Services Ltd.

HDB FINANCIAL SERVICES

Registered office:- Radhika, 2nd Floor, Law Garden Road, Navrangpura, Ahmedabad-380009.
Contact Address:- HDB Financial Services Limited., No.195/38, 1st Floor HDFC Building, 10th Cross Road, HDFC Building Wilson Garden, Bangalore-560027, **and also at:** HDB Financial Services Limited., Zenith House, Opposite Race Course, Mahalakshmi, Mumbai-400034.

DEMAND NOTICE

PUBLICATION OF NOTICE U/S 13 (2) OF THE SARFAESI ACT

Notice is hereby given that the under mentioned borrower(s)/ guarantor(s)/mortgagor(s) who have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the Overdraft facilities obtained by them from the Bank and whose facility account has been classified as Non-Performing Assets (NPA). The notices were issued to them under Section 13(2) of the Securitization and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (SARFAESI Act) on their last known addresses but they have been returned un-served and as such they are hereby informed by way of this public notice.

Sl. No.	Loan Account No. & Product	Name of Borrowers, Co-borrowers, Mortgagors	O/s. As per 13(2) Notice	NPA Date	& Notice Date
1	36099121	**1) Eshwari Enterprises,** No.45/1, Ground Floor, SJJ High School Road, Manivilasa Garden, Kamalanagar, Bangalore-560079, Karnataka. **Also at:** Northern Portion of Site No.1076, Sy.No.46, Situated at Saneguruvanahalli Village, Yeshwanthapura Hobli, Bangalore-560079. **2) B Mala,** No.1076, 3rd Cross, NGO's Colony, Kamalangar, Basaweshwara Nagar, Bangalore North, Bangalore-560079, Karnataka. **3) Sathish Kumar V,** No.1076, 3rd Cross, NGO's Colony, Kamalangar, Bangalore North, Basaweshwara Nagar, Bangalore-560079, Karnataka.	Rs. 35,10,133.87	06.10.2024	14.10.2024

SCHEDULE OF THE SECURITIES-I:- All that piece and parcel of property bearing New No.1076/1 (Earlier Northern Portion of Site No.1076) in Sy.No.46 situated at Saneguruvanahalli Village, Yeshwanthapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bengaluru, Measuring East to West 40ft and North to South 15ft. **Boundaries: North:** Site No.1075, **South:** Site No.1076, **East:** Site No.1088, **West:** Road.

The above borrowers and /or their guarantor(s)/mortgagor(s) (wherever applicable) are hereby called upon to make payment of outstanding amount within 60 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which further steps will be taken after expiry of said 60 days under sub-Section (4) of Section 13 of SARFAESI Act.

Further more, this is to bring to your attention that under Section 13 (8) of the SARFAESI Act, in case our dues together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred by us are tendered at any time before the date fixed for sale or transfer, the secured asset shall not be sold or transferred by us, and no further step shall be taken by us for transfer or sale of that secured asset.

Date: 27.10.2024, Place: Bangalore **Sd/- Authorised Officer, HDB Financial Services Ltd.**

HDFC BANK LIMITED

HDFC BANK

Regd Office: HDFC Bank House, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel (West), Mumbai - 400013
Branch Office: : #51, HDFC Ltd., HDFC House, Kasturba Road, Bangalore 560 001
Tel: 080-41183000, CIN L65920MH1994PLC080618 Website: www.hdfcbank.com

NOTICE FOR REMOVAL OF PERSONAL BELONGINGS/HOUSEHOLD GOODS

Name of Borrower (s) / Legal heir (s) / Legal Representative(s)	Date of Demand Notice(s)	Date of Possession	Description of Secured Asset(s) / Immovable Property (ies)
Smt. Mamatha Santhoshima A G, (Borrower)	25.03.2024	25.10.2024	**Schedule A:** All that piece and parcel of the residentially converted immovable property bearing **Survey No. 120/3,** of surdenupura village, Hesargatta Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk Measuring 8. Guntas Vide Conversion Endorsement No.ALN: (N.A.H)SR/9/2010-11 dated 30-07-2010 more fully described in the Schedule- A. Hereunder and hereinafter referred as Schedule-A Property having purchased by the developer under a registered sale deed registered in the Sub-Registrar Office, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore has got building plan sanctioned from BIAPPA Vide TP-03CC-177/2011-12 dated 23/11/2011 for construction of residential Apartment in an area of 8784 Sqft in Schedule-A Property. and bounded on: **East by** : Munithimma's Land, **West by :** Channappa`s Land, **North by** : Remaining Owners Land, **South by** : Road, **Schedule B: East by:** Open Space, **West by :** Unit-1 (Flat No.F-001), **North by :** Open Space, **South by :** Unit-3 (Flat No.F-003), **391.00 Sqft** undivided share, right and title and interest in the Schedule A Property, with One Residential Apartment / Flat bearing **No. F-002** (1 BHK) **First Floor** with super built-up area approx. of **729.50 Sq ft with car parking area.**

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of **HDFC Bank Limited** (erstwhile HDFC Limited having amalgamated with HDFC Bank Limited by virtue of a Scheme of Amalgamation approved by Hon'ble NCLT-Mumbai vide order dated 17th March 2023) **(HDFC).**

This Public Notice is issued in view of the fact that HDFC has not been able to communicate / establish contact with the aforesaid Borrower (s) / Legal heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) at his / her / their last known address as per HDFC's records.

Whereas the Authorised Officer of HDFC in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (SARFAESI Act) has issued Demand Notice (s) to the Borrower (s) / Legal heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) on the dates mentioned above.

On the Borrower (s) / Legal heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) failure to comply with the said Demand Notice (s) within the period set out therein, the Authorized Officer of HDFC has taken over possession of the immovable property (ies) / Secured Asset (s) more particularly described in the said Demand Notice (s), under Section 13 (4) of the SARFAESI Act read with Rule 8 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, on the dates mentioned above.

At the time of taking over possession of the said immovable property (ies) / Secured Asset (s), the Authorised Officer of HDFC has drawn up an inventory of personal belongings and household goods lying therein, copy whereof can be collected from the undersigned on any working day during office hours.

In the circumstances, Notice is hereby given, to the said Borrower (s)/ Legal heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) to forthwith remove the personal belongings / household goods lying in the aforesaid immovable property (ies) / Secured Asset (s)) within **10 (ten) days** from the date hereof, failing which the Authorised Officer will have no other option but to remove the personal belongings/household goods and dispose off /deal with it in the manner as may be deemed fit, entirely at the Borrower (s) / Legal heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) risk as to cost and consequences, in which event, no claim will be entertained in this regard in future.

Date: 27.10.2024
Place: Bangalore

Sd/-Authorised Officer
HDFC Bank Ltd. under SARFAESI Act, 2002

WESTERN RAILWAY

MATERIAL MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

VARIOUS MATERIALS SUPPLY

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE No. S/60/2024 Date 22.10.2024

S.N.	Short Description of Item	Quantity	T.O.D.
702	Kit for speed sensor	144 Nos	20-Nov-24
703	KNUCKLE FOR AAR H COUPLER	180 Nos	20-Nov-24
704	POLY RING (DONUTS)	18370 Nos	20-Nov-24
705	MAIN LED SIGNAL LIGHTING UNIT ASPECT GREEN	1161 Nos	22-Nov-24
706	Sphero Elastic rubber	279 Nos	26-Nov-24
REVERSE AUCTION			
58	Thick Web Switch Expansion Joint	960 Set	22-Nov-24
59	Supply of 76/132 kV 1 Core 800 SQ MM Aluminium conductor XLPE insulated power cable with copper wire	12500 Mtr	18-Nov-24

Regarding detailed notice EMD, Purchase restrictions and detailed tender conditions, please visit website www.ireps.gov.in and www.wr.indianrailways.gov.in

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Bank of Maharashtra

बैंक ऑफ महाराष्ट्र
Bank of Maharashtra
A GOVT. OF INDIA UNDERTAKING
एक परिवार एक बैंक

ZONAL OFFICE : No. 465/A, 22nd Cross, 3rd Block,
Opp: NMKRV College for Women, Jayanagar, Bengaluru - 560011.
TELE : 080-4656 1236 | **E-mail :** dzmbengaluru@mahabank.co.in
Head Office : Lokmangal,1501, Shivajinagar, Pune - 5.

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Properties (Appendix IV-A)

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower/s that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to Bank of Maharashtra, the possession of which have been taken by the Authorised Officer of Bank of Maharashtra, will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is"** on **28.11.2024,** for recovery of the balance due to the Bank of Maharashtra from the Borrower(s) as mentioned in the table. Details of Borrower/s, amount due, Short description of the immovable property and encumbrances known thereon, possession type, reserve price and the earnest money deposit are also given as under –

Sr. No.	Name and address of Borrower/s	Outstanding dues as on 22.10.2024	Short description of immovable property / Possession Type / Encumbrances known to the bank	Reserve Price / Earnest Money Deposit
1.	**Branch: Brigade Road (M-8903788479)** **Borrower/s :** **Smt. Kalavathi D** **Mr. Babu Reddy** Both resided at No.44/8, Aswathappa Apartements, Sadhasivnagar, Anekal Road, Attibele, Bengaluru-560 107 Also at No.188/6, Panchamuki Nilaya, Sarjapura Road, Behind Corporation Bank, Doctor Layout, Attibele, Anekal, Bengaluru - 562107.	**Rs. 3,00,78,262.00 (Rupees Three Crore Seventy Eight Thousand Two Hundred Sixty Two Only) plus further interest w.e.f. 23.10.2024** plus all costs, penalty, charges and expenses or other incidental charges thereof.	All those pieces and parcels of residential sites with building bearing Old Panchayat No.779/2, Assessment No.1717/1643/779/2 admeasuring area 2800 sq. ft. and Old Panchayat No.779/3, Assessment No.1717/1643/779/3 admeasuring area 2400 sq. ft. in Survey No.291/1 lying and situated at Village-Attibele, Attibele Hobli, Tal-Anekal, Bangalore-562 107 and both the sites are butted and bounded as under- **Old Panchayat No.779/2** On or towards North : By Site No.3; On or towards East : By Site No.1 and Road; On or towards West : By Site No.4 & On or towards South : By Land belonging to Smt. Muninanjamma. **Old Panchayat No.779/3** On or towards North : By Road; On or towards East : By Road; On or towards West : By Site No.4 & On or towards South : By Site No.2. **Symbolic** / **NIL**	**Rs. 609.00 Lakh** **Rs. 60.90 Lakh**
2.	**Branch : Jayanagar Bengaluru (M-9995151753)** **Borrower/s :** **Mr. R Gangadhar** **Mrs. V Sujatha** Both resided at No.27, 1st Main Road, 2nd Cross, Kasthuriba Nagar Government Electric Factory, Bangalore - 560026.	**Rs.17,97,605.00 (Rupees Seventeen Lakh Ninety Seven Thousand Six Hundred Five Only)** plus further interest w.e.f. 23.10.2024 plus all costs, penalty, charges and expenses or other incidental charges thereof.	All that piece and parcel of residential & commercial property bearing No.60 (Old No.1), Khata No.10/2, admeasuring area 2580 sq. ft. (East to West 86 ft. and North to South 30 ft.) with constructions thereon in the name of Mr. R Gangadhar & Mrs. V Sujatha lying and situated at Ashwathakatte Road, Kasturba Nagar, Bangalore and bounded as follows - On or towards the North : By Property of S Lingappa; On or towards the South : By Property of R Somasekhar; On or towards the East : By Road & On or towards the West : By Road. **Symbolic** / **NIL**	**Rs. 193.92 Lakh** **Rs. 19.39 Lakh**

- **Date of E-Auction & Time: 28/11/2024 between 1.00 pm to 5.00 pm.**
- **Property Inspection Date & Time: 25.11.2024 to 27.11.2024 with prior appointment.**
- **Last Date & Time for submission of Bid/EMD : 28.11.2024 upto 12.00 noon**

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in website of Bank of Maharashtra i.e. **"https://www.bankofmaharashtra.in/properties for sale" & "https://ebkray.in".**

STATUTORY 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT, 2002

The borrower/s above named are hereby notified to pay the sum as mentioned above along with up to dated interest and ancillary expenses before the date of auction, failing which the property will be auctioned/sold and balance dues if any will be recovered with interest and cost.

Date : 24.10.2024
Place : Bangalore

Sd/- Authorized Officer, Bank of Maharashtra
Bangalore Zone

Bank of Maharashtra

बैंक ऑफ महाराष्ट्र
Bank of Maharashtra
A GOVT. OF INDIA UNDERTAKING
एक परिवार एक बैंक

Zonal Office, Bengaluru : No. 465/A, 22nd Cross, 3rd Block, Opp: NMKRV College for Women, Jayanagar Bengaluru - 560011**TELE :** 080-4656 1236
E-mail: dzmbengaluru@mahabank.co.in
Head Office : Lokmangal,1501, Shivajinagar, Pune-5

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Properties (Appendix IV-A)

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower/s & Guarantor/s that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to Bank of Maharashtra, the possession of which have been taken by the Authorised Officer of Bank of Maharashtra, will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is"** on **13.11.2024**, for recovery of the balance due to the Bank of Maharashtra from the Borrower(s) as mentioned in the table. Details of Borrower/s & Guarantor/s, amount due, Short description of the immovable property and encumbrances known thereon, possession type, reserve price and the earnest money deposit are also given as under -

Sr. No.	Name and address of Borrower/s & Guarantor/s	Outstanding dues as on 22.10.2024	Short description of immovable property / Possession Type / Encumbrances known to the bank	Reserve Price / Earnest Money Deposit
1.	**Branch: Gandhinagar (M-9867633344)** **Borrowers:** **Mr. Mangalram Purohit** **Mrs. Savitha Devi** **Both resided at** No.42 (Old No.55), 3rd Floor, Ganigar A Lane, Nagarathpet Road Cross, Nagarpeth, Bangalore City, Bangalore-560002	**Rs.99,63,835.00 (Rupees Ninety Nine Lakh Sixty Three Thousand Eight Hundred Thirty Five Only)** plus further interest w.e.f. 23.10.2024 plus all costs, penalty, charges and expenses or other incidental charges thereof.	2BHK Residential Flat bearing No. OA1703 on the 17th Floor of Wing-A of OLIVE Tower in Phase-I of the project known as "PARK WEST" admeasuring carpet area 71.36 sq. mt. (768.11 sq. ft.) and Super built-up area 116.13 sq. mt. (1250 sq. ft.) constructed on the land bearing Municipal No.1/1 (Old No.1) with one car parking with undivided share of the land of 379.17 sq. ft. in the total area of the land lying and situated at Hosakere Road, New Ward No.121 (Old No.31), Binnypet, Bangalore-560023 and the Flat is butted and bounded as under- On or toward North: By open space and Flat No.OA-1704; On or towards South: By Flat No.OA-1702; On or towards East: By Lobby and On or towards West: By open space. **Physical** / **NIL**	**Rs.114.95 Lakh** **Rs.11.50 Lakh**
2.	**Asset Recovery Branch (M-8292940000)** **Borrower:** **Mrs. Florance Aron** **W/o S Harry Aron** **Guarantor:** **Mr. S Harry Aron** Both resided at No.604, SMR Vinay Regency, Next to ASR Convention Hall, Banaswadi, Bengaluru-560 043	**Rs.60,83,368.00 (Rupees Sixty Lakh Eighty Three Thousand Three Hundred Sixty Eight Only)** plus further interest w.e.f. 23.10.2024 plus all costs, penalty, charges and expenses or other incidental charges thereof.	All that piece and parcel of 2 BHK Residential property (land & building) bearing Flat No.407, 4th Floor in the project named "DS Max Solitaire" with super built-up area 1020 sq. ft. consisting of Living room, Dinning Hall, Kitchen, two bed rooms, one common bathroom and one attached bathroom with one car parking at stilt with undivided share of the land admeasuring 298 sq. ft. lying and situated at Banzar Layout, Horamavu, Near Agara Lake, K R Puram Hobli, Bengaluru-560 043 and the Flat is butted and bounded as follows-On or towards North : By Flat No.408, On or towards South : By Flat No.406, On or towards East : By Lobby & Lift, On or towards West : By Open Space. **Physical** / **NIL**	**Rs.40.47 Lakh** **Rs.4.05 Lakh**
3.	**Asset Recovery Branch (M-8292940000)** **Borrower:** **Mr. G Magesh Babu &** **Mrs. G Komala** **Both resided at** Door No.513, 1st Floor, 24th Main Road, Maranahalli, J P Nagar, Phase-II, Bangalore-560078	**Rs.69,26,918.00 (Rupees Sixty Nine Lakh Twenty Six Thousand Nine Hundred Eighteen Only)** plus further interest w.e.f. 23.10.2024 plus all costs, penalty, charges and expenses or other incidental charges thereof.	All the piece and parcel of 2BHK residential apartment bearing Flat No.GF 02 (now BBMP Khatha No 1447/GF-002/747/9-10-23-24) on Ground Floor admeasuring built-up area 1100.00 sq. ft. in the Apartment named 'SRI SAI KAMAL NIVAS' constructed on the land bearing Survey No.58/5A and Site Nos.9, 10, 23 & 24 admeasuring area 5190 sq. ft. with undivided share of the land admeasuring area 471 sq. ft. along with one covered car parking lying and situated at Village-Gubbalalu, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore-560 061 and the Flat is butted and bounded as follows-On or towards North : By Flat No.GF-01, On or towards South : By Open Space, On or towards East : By Open Space, On or towards West : By Open Space. **Physical** / **NIL**	**Rs.38.22 Lakh** **Rs.3.82 Lakh**
4.	**Branch: Basavangudi (M-8956939407)** **Borrower/s:** **Mr. Santosh Kumar B S** **Mrs. Lavanya M** **Both resided at** House No.10, Old No.41, Marenahalli, 2nd Main Road, KGS Layout, Vijaynagar-560 040	**Rs.67,89,500.00 (Rupees Sixty Seven Lakh Eighty Nine Thousand Five Hundred Only)** plus further interest w.e.f. 23.10.2024 plus all costs, penalty, charges and expenses or other incidental charges thereof.	2BHK Residential Flat bearing No.307 on the 2nd Floor in Multi Storied Apartment building known as "SRIVEN SKYPARK" constructed on the land bearing Survey No.3/1 (present Khata No.509/3/1) with super built up area of 1695 sq. ft. including common areas & other amenities along with a covered car parking with 385 sq. ft. undivided interest in the land lying and situated at Village-Kammanahalli, Begur Hobli, Bannerghatta Road, Central Excise Layout Road, Bangalore-560078. **Symbolic** / **NIL**	**Rs.49.97 Lakh** **Rs.5.00 Lakh**
5.	**Kormangala Branch (M-9836538068)** **Borrower:** **Mr. Eruvaka Vishal** **Guarantor/s:** **Miss Eruvaka Sucharitha** **Both resided at** 101, Aries Apartment, 27th Main Road, Sector-2, HSR Layout, Bangalore – 560102	**Rs.1,16,35,428.00 (Rupees One Crore Sixteen Lakh Thirty Five Thousand Four Hundred Twenty Eight Only)** plus further interest w.e.f. 23.10.2024 plus all costs, penalty, charges and expenses or other incidental charges thereof.	Residential Vacant Plot situated at Northern Portion of New Site No. 01, bearing Khata no. 391/41, New Site No. 1, Property No. 150200101800400079 in Sy No. 547/3, situated at Surya Nagar II Phase, KHB, Marasur Village, Kasaba Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore-560099, admeasuring total area 4010.75 sq. ft. (East to West-131.50 feet. & North to South 30.50 feet.) and the property is butted and bounded as under-On or towards East : By Remaining portion of the Erstwhile Sy. No. 547/3; On or towards West : By 60 feet Road; On or towards North : By Northern Portion of new site no. 1 of Schedule A property & On or towards South : By Remaining Southern Portion of same site and site Nos 2 to 5. **Physical** / **NIL**	**Rs.94.24 Lakh** **Rs.9.42 Lakh**

- **Date of E-Auction & Time: 13/11/2024 between 1.00 pm to 5.00 pm.**
- **Property Inspection Date & Time: 08.11.2024 to 12.11.2024 with prior appointment.**
- **Last Date & Time for submission of Bid/EMD : 13.11.2024 upto 12.00 noon**

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in website of Bank of Maharashtra i.e. **"https://www.bankofmaharashtra.in/properties for sale" & "https://ebkray.in".**

STATUTORY 15 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT, 2002

The borrower/s and guarantor/s above named are hereby notified to pay the sum as mentioned above along with up to dated interest and ancillary expenses before the date of auction, failing which the property will be auctioned/sold and balance dues if any will be recovered with interest and cost.

Date : 24.10.2024 | Place : Bangalore **Sd/-, Authorized Officer Bank of Maharashtra, Bangalore Zone**

"The poverty of the poor is not a call to generous relief action, but a demand that we go and build a different social order

Gustavo Gutiérrez

TRUMP TRIGGERS TRADE-OFFS IN GEOPOLITICS

IT was 8 pm in Beijing, 5.30 pm in the evening in New Delhi, 3 pm in Kazan in Russia and 8 am in Washington DC. The world paused to register the headline moment flashing across screens, as the leaders of two nations accounting for a third of humanity met.

It was the first bilateral meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping after five years of conflict triggered by China's expansionism. It is early days to assess if the thaw will last and deliver—on the face of it, the two countries agreed on a patrolling arrangement along the Line of Actual Control and have talked about talking to reduce tensions.

The big question is what caused the change in China's approach considering that the "deal" was on the table for over four years. The answer is embedded in a confluence of circumstances. The deterioration in the state of the Chinese economy juxtaposed on the plausibility of a possible second Trump presidency.

The risk of Trump II is real for China. Barring post-Covid 2021, its GDP growth has not crossed the 7.9 percent recorded in 2012, the year Xi took charge. Data shows China's economy grew at 4.8 percent in the first nine months of this year and growth in the third quarter was the slowest in six quarters. The worsening state of real estate has afflicted consumption and employment. This week saw 3.2 million of young Chinese apply for 39,700 government posts. Hope rests on manufacturing capacity which accounts for a fourth of its GDP. But to monetise this, China needs markets—India's imports netted $101 billion in 2023-24.

THE THIRD EYE

SHANKKAR AIYAR
Author of *The Gated Republic, Aadhaar: A Biometric History of India's 12 Digit Revolution*, and *Accidental India*
(shankkar.aiyar@gmail.com)

Enter the Trump brand of geo-economics. Trump told the Chicago Economic Club that the most beautiful word in the dictionary is 'tariff'. Trump plans to leverage the size of the US economy and impose 10-20 percent tariffs on all imports into the US and a targeted 60 percent tariff on all Chinese imports. In 2023, the total value of US imports was $3.35 trillion, of which China accounted for over $47 billion a month or roughly $550 billion. China is already facing tariffs, scrutiny on investments and the target of strong bipartisan anger and angst.

China's use of proxy routes—through investments to circumvent tariff barriers—is no longer a secret. The rise of Mexico as the largest partner of the US has triggered scrutiny of its southern neighbor that has attracted investment from Chinese companies. Trump has threatened a 2000 percent tariff on cars built in Mexico, even as the US is already reviewing automotive imports from Mexico under the USMCA rules of origin clause. Trump has spared none in his tariff theology. He has dubbed India the "highest tariff charger", vowed reciprocal action and pledged to block the acquisition of US Steel by Nippon Steel.

The European Union has come in for special mention. Trump told the "lovely EU", which accounted for $542 billion of US imports in 2023, to brace for tariffs. Predictably, this sent tremors across Europe, particularly in Germany, which is already in contraction, and France, which faces a debt-to-GDP ratio of over 110 percent. Trump has brusquely brushed off criticism in Chicago, studies by think tanks and warnings by the IMF of contraction in the world economy.

The financial markets have assessed Trumponomics and crafted a playbook hash-tagged #TrumpTrade—bearish on bonds on inflation expectations and bullish on stocks on hopes of cuts in taxes and regulatory binds. There is no playbook yet hash-tagged for the spectrum of geopolitical issues, but the possible return of Trump has triggered the quest for trade-offs, pre-emptive moves to insure from risks.

Last month, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy sought time in New York to understand Trump's plans to end the war in Ukraine. Also in the queue was Prime Minister Keir Starmer seeking to underline the special relationship between the US and the UK; the effort didn't age well as the Trump campaign filed an extraordinary complaint against Starmer's Labour party for what it claims is "interference" in the US presidential election. This week saw German Chancellor Olaf Scholz in New Delhi seeking to boost economic ties.

The existential question about Taiwan surfaced following China's war games, described as the 'anaconda strategy', around Taiwan. The US responded by sending a warship through the Taiwan Strait even as former US National Security Adviser John Bolton warned Taiwan could "potentially be toast if Trump wins".

The possibility of a Trump presidency has also emboldened risk-taking. Reports that are yet to be conclusively proved or denied claim Russia has inducted North Korean troops for the war in Ukraine. In West Asia and Europe, it is clear that all hopes for peace and definition of its contours await the election of the next US president. On Saturday, Israel bombed military targets in Iran a day after Secretary of State Antony Blinken failed to seal a ceasefire in Gaza and Lebanon with West Asian leaders in London.

The outcome of the US election will be known after November 5. This week, a *CNN* poll found the contenders locked in a tie on the final stretch; most polls suggest the result is TCTC or too close to call. For whatever reason, consensus outside the US is zeroing on Trump. In 2016, the debate was whether Trump must be taken literally or seriously. In 2024, it would seem Trump is being taken both literally and seriously.

BEYOND BORDERS ON INDIA-CHINA TABLE

OPINION

P S RAGHAVAN
Distinguished Fellow, Vivekananda International Foundation and a former diplomat

THE meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the BRICS summit in Russia was timely for bilateral relations and sensitive to the uncertainties of the global geopolitical landscape. Painstaking official negotiations over months resulted in an agreement on outstanding issues from the 2020 military clashes in Ladakh, which cleared the ground for the two leaders to meet.

There have been pressures in recent months from our business community to lift restrictions on inflows of Chinese technical personnel and equipment that were increasing their costs. Various public diplomacy arms of the Chinese government approached our governmental and non-governmental institutions with the same message. Sections of our economic establishment worried about the impact of exaggerated national security concerns on our growth.

The political leadership was vindicated in its conviction that it would be a strategic mistake if major transgressions of understandings on the Line of Actual Control went unrectified, even if it involved some economic sacrifice.

The Indian and Chinese special representatives have been instructed to "explore a fair, reasonable and mutually-acceptable solution to the boundary question". In the current state of the bilateral relationship and the broader international climate, it is unlikely that much progress can be made in the near term on this ambitious agenda. The special representatives could be more realistically expected to evolve and monitor effective border management mechanisms to maintain peace and tranquillity along the LAC.

From a political perspective, a resumption of this top-level dialogue should be welcomed. As two large neighbours with ambitious aspirations for regional and global influence, competition and collaboration will necessarily be called for on bilateral and multilateral issues.

The absence of dialogue at the top level opens up increased space to play one against the other, not only for our neighbours, but also our friends who have joined with us to meet the many strategic challenges from China, and whose interests are best served by unremitting hostility between India and China.

AP

We should recognise, however, that this rapprochement does not resolve the core issues between India and China. China will continue to be active in our neighbourhood in a manner inimical to our interests. Its activities in the Indian Ocean and our continental Eurasian flank will continue to impinge on India's economic and security interests.

The strategic rivalry will not subside. One can only strive to create guardrails to prevent it from spilling out into confrontation, as it has done in the past.

For over a decade now, India has sought to address the widening gap in the comprehensive national strengths of the two countries by a mix of domestic economic, technology and military capacity-building and an external balancing strategy based on close partnership with the US, its allies and partners in the eastern and western Indian Ocean, as well as other traditional partners in the Eurasian region.

For a level of equilibrium to be achieved in the rivalry, we need to redouble our national efforts towards achieving at least near-parity in comprehensive national strengths in the shortest possible timeframe. The current rapprochement should not obscure the larger goal.

In the economic sphere, the argument that excessive restrictions on engagement would impact our growth trajectory is valid. Equally, the engagement has to be regulated to protect national security and long-term economic interests.

Even with the various restraints on Chinese inward investment and encouragement of import substitution, China remains India's top source of imports, which continue to rise inexorably. Nearly all our imports from China are industrial goods. The increasing influx of Chinese firms into India, which will source most of their requirements from China, is adding to the imports. US tariff hikes on Chinese products are encouraging their dumping in India.

Opening up trade with China should not slow our domestic efforts to reduce our dependence on China for critical industrial products. Traders who agitate against anti-dumping duties on below-cost Chinese exports are, in effect, retarding our import substitution efforts. There has to be a calibrated trade-off between short-term gains and long-term priorities.

The India-China rapprochement should also be seen in the backdrop of the current global geopolitical flux.

As the Russia-Ukraine conflict drags on, many policy-makers in the US and Europe are gearing up for a negotiated termination soon after a new administration takes office in Washington, regardless of who wins the presidential elections. There are extraordinarily complex interests involved and a multiplicity of stakeholders. Efforts for a settlement with some sort of a 'win-win' outcome for major stakeholders could be tortuous, with unpredictable consequences for Eurasian security.

In West Asia too, a denouement has to emerge after the US elections to end the ongoing carnage. The guiding US hand will be either a Democratic administration, which has so far had no success in restraining its ally's military campaign, or a Republican one, which stands four-square behind Israel. US allies like Saudi Arabia, UAE and Jordan remain petrified about the prospects of a wider conflagration. It is difficult to imagine a solution which will not be messy.

These concerns moved the diverse group of countries from across continents, regions and political systems that assembled in Russia during the BRICS summit. They ignored the Western narrative that BRICS is a China-Russia construct to challenge the West-led global order, or the myth of Russia's international isolation that had to be kept intact. Some were hedging their political bets in the near term; others were looking for longer-term insurance against threats from the global financial architecture.

The probable return of Donald Trump to the White House has naturally animated conversations about its impact on these international upheavals.

The strongest change in US behaviour may be towards China. It was Trump who decisively shifted US strategic attention to China in his first term. He now promises to do more, and more harshly.

The Trump agenda has no patience with blending cooperation with competition. It advocates total strategic decoupling from China—inter alia, zero dependence on Chinese supply chains, expanding tariffs to all Chinese products, denying visas to Chinese students and researchers, and withdrawing accreditation to American universities receiving grants from China.

To add insult to injuries, a congressional enquiry could investigate the hypothesis that the coronavirus originated in a Wuhan lab and, if proven, levy trillions of dollars of damages on China.

Even if only some of these measures are initiated, China should have its hands full with its principal adversary. Global governance structures will also be shaken. India and China will have more to think about than their rivalry.

THE HISTORY THAT PILLARS HOLD UP

OPINION

NANDITHA KRISHNA
Historian, environmentalist and writer based in Chennai

WHEN we visit a temple, one the first structures we usually see outside the sanctum is a pillar. Many pay obeisance to the pillar before venturing in. The *Atharva Veda* says the pillar separates heaven and earth. Little does the devotee realise that his veneration of the pillar is an ancient form of worship in India.

Some of the earliest pillars of the world are found in Egypt—the obelisks placed before temples. The earliest political pillars were probably built by the Persians.

But the erection of pillars independent of any structure originated in India, according to archaeologist and epigraphist D R Bhandarkar. Worship of the pillar was an ancient practice that continued into historical times. There have been various uses attributed to them. The Vedic *yupa* was a sacrificial pillar. R P Chanda linked the pillar with animal standards or emblems, described in epic literature as *dhvaja* or *skambha* that was carried into battle. V S Agrawala said that two stone pillars found near Vishrant ghat on the Yamuna were probably pillars to commemorate a yajna.

The free-standing *kirtistambha* was generally associated with rock-cut caves. The Vedic *skambha* was identified with Brahman and a support of the universe. The cult of *stambha* worship glorified the pillar as an object to be venerated.

The dominant creative works of the Ashokan period were the stone pillars crowned by capitals of exquisite craftsmanship, topped by animals. According to John Irwin, only four pillars with inscriptions were erected by the emperor. For the remaining 36 (or more, for many pillars were lost), there is no conclusive evidence they were built by him. On some of the monolithic columns that were already standing, Ashoka inscribed messages of dharma. He ordered: "[Wherever] there are stone pillars, [edicts] must be caused to be engraved on them."

Ashoka's pillars were magnificent creations that heralded a new age of stone sculpture. The columns were carved out of either spotted red-and-white sandstone from Mathura or buff-coloured hard sandstone with small black spots from Chunar near Varanasi.

The capitals were made up of three sections: a crowning animal, an abacus of animals or plants in the centre, and a lotus petal-shaped bell below fastened to a monolithic shaft by a large metal pin. The shafts were always plain, smooth and circular, tapering upwards and made of a single stone. There was no separate base at the bottom. The abacus was of two types: square and plain, or circular and decorated. The pillar capitals show influences of Achaemenid art.

The animals on the abacus represented Buddha himself. The bull represented the astrological sign of his birth, Vrishabha, corresponding to Taurus; the horse symbolised him leaving his palace; the lion was about the powerful exposition of dharma by Sakyamuni; the elephant was the guise he chose when he descended from heaven to be born on Earth.

Seven of the pillars have animal capitals: lions, an elephant and a bull. Xuanzang, visiting Lumbini in the 7th century CE, said that the Lumbini pillar was surmounted by a horse sculpture. The abacuses also include the dharmachakra.

Freestanding pillars independent of other structures have a long history in India. They were used to signify royal authority or were marked for religious purposes. Yet, research on their history remains neglected

Two of the pillars were relocated to Delhi by Firoz Shah Tughlaq, while several others were relocated by later Mughal kings who removed the animal capitals. The most majestic Ashokan creation was the Sarnath lion capital, with four lions seated back-to-back—which became the symbol of the Indian government after independence.

Bharhut and the cave temples of western India developed unique designs for ornamental pillars which replicated wood carvings. A relief from the Bharhut stupa railing portrays a queenly person on horseback carrying a Garuda *dhvaja*.

In 180 BCE, Greek governor Antialkidas sent his envoy Heliodorus with a gift of a Garuda *dhvaja* to Bhagabhadra. Heliodorus's pillar was dedicated in Brahmi to Vasudeva and erected at Besnagar (Vidisha) near Sanchi; other pillars at Sanchi supported huge gateways.

Chandragupta I of the Gupta dynasty built the iron pillar that now stands in Delhi. The pillar, which weighs more than six tonnes, is known for its unique rust-resistant composition that was unprecedented in its time. It's a testament to ancient Indian metallurgy. It was probably originally situated at Udayagiri and shifted here by the Tomar king Anangpal. It's another way pillars symbolised royal authority in ancient India.

Later, monolithic pillars became ornaments of elaborate temple architecture, holding up ceilings and mandapas. The Pallavas created pillars with seated or rearing lions as the base or even rearing lions on the abacus. Pillar construction reached its zenith during the Kakatiya, Vijayanagara and Nayaka periods, when 100-pillar halls (Varadaraja temple, Kanchipuram), 1,000-pillar halls (Hanamkonda in Telengana, Srirangam in Tamil Nadu) and musical pillars (Vitthala temple, Hampi) swamped southern India.

The development of pillar construction in India is fascinating. But it remains a neglected and poorly-defined area of study. The next time you visit a temple, take a good look at the pillars—they can tell you a story.

QUOTE CORNER

I wanted all woman victims of rape—not just when they have been drugged, rape exists at all levels—I wanted those women to say: Mrs Pelicot did it, we can do it too. When you're raped there is shame—and it's not for us to have shame, it's for them.

Gisèle Pelicot, French woman whose courage in taking the stand in the mass-rape trial of her ex-husband and several others has riveted global attention

Our generation can say the slave trade was abhorrent... We can't change our history but we should certainly talk about our history.

Keir Starmer, UK prime minister, before the recent Commonwealth meeting

They (Western capitals) are not getting the importance of this thing. It's all signalling that the West is losing power.

Alicia Garcia-Herrero, senior fellow at the Bruegel economic think tank, on the rise of BRICS and and proof that Russia isn't diplomatically isolated

MAILBAG

WRITE TO letters@newindianexpress.com

Doubting Thomas

Ref: *Need to probe Kerala horse-trading charge* (Oct 26). Thomas K Thomas is an NCP MLA who now owes his allegiance to Sharad Pawar-led faction of the party. However, he seems to have become a doubting Thomas like the one in the Bible, and is confused as to which of the factions led by Sharad and Ajit Pawar is the real NCP.

N A Joseph, Ettumanoor

Tainting Kerala

Have the evils of political horse-trading come to Kerala? There used to be reports from other states that legislators were made to change sides with the lure of huge sums. The unprecedented allegations about our MLAs are most serious.

P P Sahadevan, Nileshwar

Probe fairness

The allegation is a first in Kerala politics. Considering that the state police's inquiries into many past issues have been generally in tune with the government's 'requirements', one need not be surprised if no impartial probe is conducted in this matter too.

C G Kuriakose, Kothamangalam

Imparting justice

Ref: *Transparency in court proceedings boosts democracy* (Oct 26). If all stakeholders bear in mind that the ultimate aim of the process is to impart justice to deserving litigants, the system will improve considerably. Social media platforms should exercise restrictions on 'competitive trials'. Let Kaleeswaram Raj's article be an eye opener.

S Madhavan Thampi, Haripad

Democracy requisite

The success of a democracy hinges on an efficient and fair judicial system. In a country such as ours, where there is poverty and innumerable people ignorant of laws, it is imperative that lawyers and judges do their bit without fear or favour, and are transparent in all their dealings. Technology, of course, should help the cause. Put differently, judiciary is the sole hope for the nation at large.

S Ramakrishnasayee, Chennai

Open bureaucracy

Transparency is the need of the hour not only in the judicial process, but also in all government offices, although with some restrictions. Several other government functions can be screened live. Oommen Chandy was a rare leader who tried to improve transparency in the Kerala secretariat.

S Vignesh, email

Population control

The chief ministers of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu are in the news for asking couples in their states to have more children. This is baffling. Being the most populous country in the world, India is already bursting at its seams. With limited natural resources and unlimited societal tensions, it is too premature to think of unshackling the small-family norm in the country. With unassured employment scope, there is no guarantee that a big family would solve the loneliness problem of the aged.

P Mangalachandran, Kannur

Exam vigil

Ref: *No teachers, students conduct exams themselves* (Oct 26). It is unprecedented in the annals of our education system that there was no supervisor in an exam hall. Dereliction of duty on the part of principal is clear. The ruse of being unwell cannot be taken as excuse. If that were to be the case, he should have asked his deputy to discharge the duty in his absence. Such lapses should not be repeated lest exams become a mockery.

H P Murali, Bengaluru

Odisha startups

The Odisha Yatri app is a very good idea. The state government should also take steps to generate IT employment. We must make our business environment suitable for technical companies to open offices and techies to come to Odisha. We must also encourage startups.

Sunil Pradhan, Nuapada

THE NEW SUNDAY EXPRESS

Chairman of the Board: **Manoj Kumar Sonthalia** Editor: **Santwana Bhattacharya**

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POSTS OF THE DAY

Yogi Adityanath @myogiadityanath
Everyone has to make collective efforts for cleanliness. Every person will have to take a pledge that we will be a part of the cleanliness program.

Subramanian Swamy @Swamy39
Modi's govt has pledged to China to refer to Plains of Depsang (which was hitherto of Indian sovereignty) now as "disputed". So too Demchok, which has a military airfield, and from which India will vacate!

Jawhar Sircar @jawharsircar
India declared among WORST PERFORMERS in Conservation, Wildlife & Biodiversity. Crony Capitalists will finish us!

SC stays HC order imposing fine for wasting court time

SUCHITRA K MOHANTY @ New Delhi

THE Supreme Court recently stayed an order of the Allahabad High Court which imposed costs of Rs 1 lakh on an advocate for wasting the court's time and arguing a case wearing a lawyer's robe and a band despite being a petitioner in-person.

A two-judge bench of the apex court, headed by Justice Surya Kant and comprising Justice Ujjal Bhuyan issued limited notice on whether the adverse remarks made by the high court against advocate Mehmood Pracha need to be expunged.

"Issue notice for the limited purpose as to why the observations made by the high court against the petitioner be not expunged and why the order imposing cost be not set aside, returnable on December 9," the bench of the top court said.

"In light of the fact that this writ petition has been wrongly filed and has resulted in the loss of precious time of this court coupled with the inappropriate methodology adopted by the petitioner appearing in person, this writ petition is dismissed with cost payable for the sum of Rs 1,00,000."

"This cost shall be paid to the Uttar Pradesh State Legal Services Authority within a period of 30 days from the date. In the event the cost is not paid, the Registrar General is directed to take necessary action for recovery of the same in accordance with law," the high court had said.

Pracha had moved the high court seeking entire videography and CCTV footage pertaining to the conduct of elections at Rampur Lok Sabha Constituency in Uttar Pradesh.

ALSO IN TOP COURT

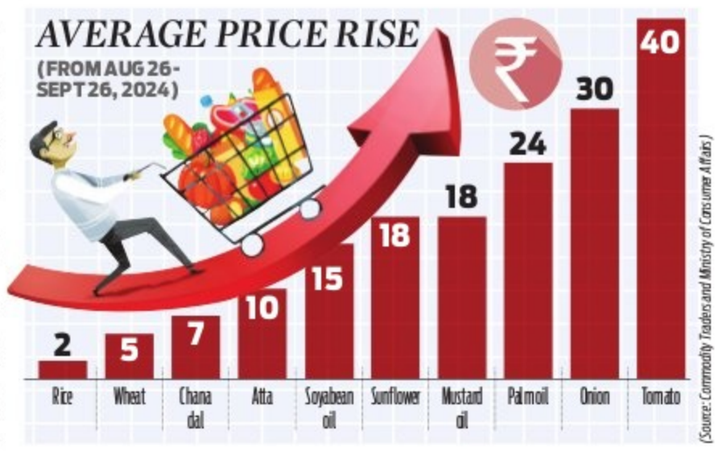
SC bins plea on poor state of MP schools

The top court refused to entertain a plea filed by the NGO Social Jurist, which sought appropriate directions on the poor condition of state-run schools in Madhya Pradesh. The three-judge bench asked the NGO to approach the Madhya Pradesh High Court for the kind of reliefs it wanted in the issue. The plea had stressed the need for immediate intervention.

Good monsoon rainfall, yet food grain prices up

Retail inflation at 9-month high in Sept due to higher food prices: Data

JITENDRA CHOUBEY @ New Delhi



(Source: Commodity Traders and Ministry of Consumer Affairs)

DESPITE a good monsoon and better outlook for kharif and rabi crops, prices of food grains, edible oil and vegetables have seen steep hikes in the past two months, according to government and market data.

India's retail inflation rose to a nine-month high in September due to higher food prices, government data shows. Annual retail inflation, based on the all-India Consumer Price Index, rose to 5.49% in September, higher than 3.65% in August. Food inflation rose 9.24% annually compared to a 5.66% rise in August, according to the ministry of statistics and programme implementation. This is highest after June 2024 (9.36%) and December 2023 (9.53%).

A survey by social media platform LocalCircles showed that one out of every two households is coping with high edible oil prices, driving the families to lower their consumption and shift to cheaper oil brands.

The inflationary pressure coincides with the festive season, upsetting family budgets. Right after the festive season, India goes into the wedding season, which will strain family budgets due to higher prices of edible oil and food grains.

The government has, however, been trying to douse the inflation fire. It has launched a series of products under the Bharat brand — Bharat aata, rice and dal — for direct sale to consumers at cheaper rates. Besides, it has been supplying cheaper vegetables, such as onion and tomato, to over a 100 centres across the country to bring the prices down. Government reports show that the interventions have started showing an impact and prices have marginally come down. But it's a long way to go as North India is soon to enter the wedding season, which will push up the demand for food grains.

Experts claim that government's short-sightedness on the agricultural policy has created the mess. They say its "untimely and unnecessary" regulation of the agriculture market has hit supply. "In the past three years, the government has been trying to manage the crisis instead of focusing on easing the supply side constraints," said RS Rana, an expert on agricultural commodities. "First they put a ban on exports and imposed stock limits on different staples and vegetables to cool down domestic prices but it did not resonate well enough with farmers, so the supply side was impacted," he said.

Madhya Pradesh-based commodity expert Ajay Jain said, "Diversion of important crops, such as maize, rice and sugarcane, for ethanol manufacture has contributed to price rise."

VASUNDHARA OSWAL

A BILLIONAIRE DAUGHTER ROTS IN UGANDAN JAIL

DIPAK MONDAL

SOURAV ROY

HERS is a story yet to be written — as if waiting for its many co-authors to come to an agreement about how to proceed. Midway to a presumed denouement, Vasundhara Oswal (26) is lost to her billionaire Indian-origin Swiss industrialist father Pankaj and mother Radhika. In a Uganda dungeon, that is. Her younger sister Riddhi has taken to Instagram, posting pictures of Vasundhara sitting in a room full of shoes, and a prison toilet "with blood and faeces on the floor." The post has a sound clip, where Vasundhara is heard complaining of an anxiety attack and pleading for a doctor.

Riddhi has called out the Ugandan authorities for not only illegally keeping her sister in captivity, but also denying her bail.

Pankaj Oswal has made fervent appeals to the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention and written an open letter to the Ugandan President, while mother Radhika has appealed for the safe release of her daughter, who she thinks is just an "innocent bystander."

NEWSMAKER

A Ugandan prison is certainly not the usual habitat for this photogenic, flamboyant young businesswoman, daughter of a family that owns a $200-million luxury villa in Switzerland, considered one of the world's top 10 expensive houses. She, along with her sister, has appeared on the cover of many lifestyle magazines. Her spoken words have been against patriarchy, racism and bullying. Nothing in that Instaworthy picture of opulence, splendour and chutzpah would prepare you for how, on October 1, her world came crashing down.

But what has Vasundhara — a director in Guinea-based Axis Minerals, which is the largest bauxite mining company operating in Uganda — done? Depends on who you ask, there are allegations of kidnapping and extortion flying around from either side.

According to Pankaj, owner of the conglomerate Oswal Group Global, Vasundhara was arrested by Ugandan law enforcement agencies while on a visit to an Extra-Neutral Alcohol plant, being set up by her father's PRO Industries at a $100 million investment.

The arrest was made on charges of abducting a former employee of the Oswal family, Mukesh Kumar Menaria. On October 9, Vasundhara and her lawyer Rita Ngabire were formally arrested and sent to Nakasongola prison.

The Oswals accuse the Ugandan police of "extorting thousands of dollars" from them for the "rightful bail she deserves." The Ugandan police have denied these allegations, asking the billionaire family to show proof and name the officers they bribed. The police also rubbished claims of mistreatment, arguing that cleaning duties in jail did not violate Vasundhara's rights.

At the heart of this controversy is chef Menaria, who has worked at the Oswals for seven years. The family has accused Menaria of stealing valuables from them and naming them as the guarantor for a $200,000 loan he took. It has been alleged that the Oswals forcibly took him to Uganda. Menaria has now been arrested by the Ugandan police after Pankaj's letter to their president.

Vasundahra's younger sister has posted on Instagram that the man she was accused of kidnapping and murdering was already found in Tanzania, in State custody. The family has also hinted at corporate rivalry behind the "false accusation" and subsequent arrest of Vasundhara.

However, the Oswals have been no stranger to controversies. They have been accused of tax evasion and siphoning funds from Burrup Fertilisers, a company they set up in Australia, once their adopted home land, forcing them to shift their base to Switzerland. A 16-bedroom mansion they bought in Perth was ordered to be demolished by Australian authorities.

Pankaj is also engaged in a legal battle with his mother and siblings over his father's property in India.

The Oswals have been putting up a brave face amid all these controversies, even blaming the western media of racial biases while covering a successful Indian industrialist.

They usually don't complain about the attention, though: they are known to be ostentatious with their wealth and success. When they bought their Swiss villa off a Greek businesswoman, they transformed it by incorporating vaastu and Indian interiors. Sharing pictures on Instagram, Vasundhara in a May 2023 post had said it was her family's dream to create a little India away from India. A graduate from a business school in Switzerland, and also the executive director of PRO Industries, her present desire would only be to be able to shift homes fast.

In major rejig, Centre appoints 29 joint secretaries in different depts

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

NEW APPOINTMENTS

PRAVEEN KUMAR RAI, RAKESH KUMAR PANDEY & RAJESH GUPTA
Joint secretaries, Ministry of Home Affairs

RAJ KUMAR
Director (Finance), CRPF

DEEPAK AGARWAL
Managing Director, NAFED

CHAUHAN SARITA CHAND
Joint secretary, Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances

P BALA KIRAN
Joint secretary, DoPT

BHAVNA SAXENA
CEO, Central Adoption Resource Authority

KESANG YANGZOM SHERPA
Joint secretary, Dept of Commerce

ANJAN KUMAR MISHRA
Secretary, Petroleum & Natural Gas Regulatory Board

NIRAJ KUMAR
Joint secretary, Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region

PREMJIT LAL
Executive director, Trade Promotion Organisation

BALAMURUGAN D
Joint secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs

RAMA SHANKAR SINHA
Joint secretary, Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying

RAJAT AGARWAL, VED PRAKASH MISHRA
Joint secretaries, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change

IN a major bureaucratic reshuffle, the Central government on Saturday appointed as many as 29 joint secretaries, including some officers of Indian Administrative Services, across various government departments.

According to an official notification, officers from multiple Central services, including the Indian Defence Accounts Service (IDAS), Indian Railway Service of Electrical Engineers (IRSEE), Indian Audit and Accounts Service (IA&AS), and Indian Revenue Service (IRS), have taken on these crucial joint secretary roles.

IDAS officers Praveen Kumar Rai and Rakesh Kumar Pandey, along with IRSEE officer Rajesh Gupta, have been appointed joint secretaries in the Ministry of Home Affairs, according to the order dated October 25.

Raj Kumar, a 1999-batch IA&AS officer, has been named Director (Finance) in the Central Reserve Police Force. Deepak Agarwal, a 2000-batch IAS officer from the Uttar Pradesh cadre, has been appointed managing director (joint secretary level) of the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India.

IAS officers Chauhan Sarita Chand and P Bala Kiran have been assigned as joint secretaries in the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances, and the Department of Personnel and Training, respectively. IPS officer Bhavna Saxena has been appointed as CEO of the Central Adoption Resource Authority under the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

IOFS officer Anjan Kumar Mishra will serve as secretary of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. Niraj Kumar, a Central Secretariat Service officer, has been appointed joint secretary in the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region. IRS officer Kesang Yangzom Sherpa will serve as joint secretary in the Department of Commerce.

Premjit Lal was named executive director of the India Trade Promotion Organisation, while Balamurugan D has been made joint secretary in the corporate affairs ministry.

Similarly, Rama Shankar Sinha has been appointed joint secretary in the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, and senior bureaucrats Rajat Agarwal and Ved Prakash Mishra as joint secretaries in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

Housing ministry directs CPWD to ensure rainwater harvesting in all buildings

PARVEZ SULTAN @ New Delhi

AS part of its nationwide water conservation campaign Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari (water conservation with community partnership), the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has announced that all its premises — including offices, institutions and residential colonies — across the states will have rain water harvesting system to facilitate groundwater recharge.

The ministry recently asked the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) to encourage activities to recharge groundwater. The agency issued instructions to set up the mechanism for rainwater collection and storage in buildings under its jurisdiction using 'affordable and low cost' methods, mobilising internal resources or Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds.

The CPWD has also asked its officials concerned to ensure that all the existing rainwater harvesting systems are mapped, made functional and maintained. For seamless tracking and monitoring, the officials have further been asked to upload the details of action taken on the portal created for the purpose by the Jal Shakti ministry.

The CPWD is a construction management department under the MoHUA that provides services from project concept to completion, consultancy and maintenance management for government offices.

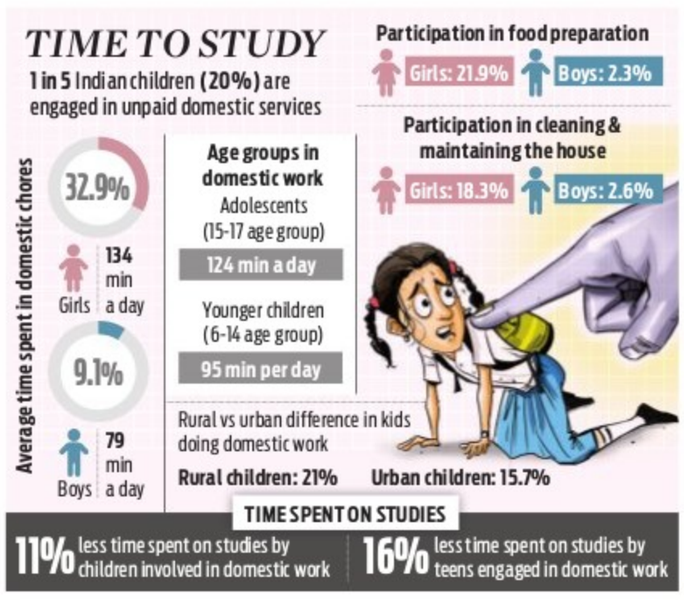
The Jal Shakti ministry earlier this month wrote, along with an advisory, to other ministries and government departments to construct rainwater harvesting systems wherever they are required and undertake regular upkeep of existing units. "It is essential to encourage other stakeholders and citizens within your sphere of influence to construct similar rainwater harvesting structures, thereby reinforcing the importance of community participation in water conservation," the ministry stated.

In June, the MoHUA and Jal Shakti ministry also jointly urged district collectors, magistrates and municipal bodies in all states and Union Territories to integrate water conservation measures with urban development projects by prioritising funding and resources for the installation of rooftop rainwater harvesting structures in commercial and residential buildings.

Each district was tasked to ensure that all villages have at least five recharge structures to capture and store rainwater.

Studies hit as more girls do domestic chores: Unicef

KAVITA BAJELI-DATT @ New Delhi


TIME TO STUDY
1 in 5 Indian children (20%) are engaged in unpaid domestic services
Average time spent in domestic chores
32.9%
Girls
134 min a day
9.1%
Boys
79 min a day
Age groups in domestic work
Adolescents (15-17 age group)
124 min a day
Younger children (6-14 age group)
95 min per day
Rural vs urban difference in kids doing domestic work
Rural children: 21%
Urban children: 15.7%
Participation in food preparation
Girls: 21.9%
Boys: 2.3%
Participation in cleaning & maintaining the house
Girls: 18.3%
Boys: 2.6%
TIME SPENT ON STUDIES
11% less time spent on studies by children involved in domestic work
16% less time spent on studies by teens engaged in domestic work

A compelling 32.9% of girls participate in unpaid domestic activities, markedly higher than 9.1% of boys, which significantly impacts their education and learning, according to a UNICEF report.

The report 'Time spent on unpaid domestic and caregiving services by children in India: Insights into gender, age and learning', is based on India's Time Use Survey 2019 by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. On average, the girls spend 134 minutes per day on unpaid domestic services — almost 70 per cent more time than boys, who spend 79 minutes per day, it says.

According to Dr Ellina Samantroy, the report's lead author, "The findings state that domestic and unpaid care work undertaken by girls when carried out for longer hours can disrupt their learning and affect their overall well-being."

She said this impacts their learning process after school hours as they are engaged in these activities, affecting their overall learning. "They cannot engage in doing homework or games, which are part of their overall learning process," said Samantroy, a Fellow of VV Giri National Labour Institute.

As per the report, girls mainly engage in cooking and cleaning — tasks boys are not expected to do, according to social norms. Girl's participation rate in food preparation (21.9%) is much higher than boys (2.3%). Girls (18.3%) are seven times more likely than boys (2.6%) to clean and keep their homes.

It also found that most children in the 15-17 age group are more involved in domestic work than younger children in the 6-14 age group. Younger children spend less time (95 minutes per day) on domestic activities than adolescents (124 minutes per day). Over 21% of children in rural areas are involved in domestic chores, compared to 15.7% in urban areas.

Rajnath to spend Diwali with soldiers deployed at Tawang in Arunachal

MAYANK SINGH @ New Delhi

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh performs Shastra Puja in Arunachal's Tawang | PTI

AMID a thaw between India and China over the standoff in eastern Ladakh, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has chosen to celebrate Diwali with the soldiers at Arunachal Pradesh's Tawang on October 31, defence sources said.

Tawang happens to be a base for soldiers, including those of the Indian Army, Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) and Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB).

When the Defence Minister will be in Tawang, the place will witness the flagging-in ceremony of the Indian Air Force — Uttarakhand War Memorial car rally at Tawang on October 30. Arunachal Pradesh chief minister Pema Khandu and senior minister Chowa Mein will witness the event.

Tawang sector saw the first artillery fire from the Chinese side during the 1962 war with China. The sector also saw the last ceasefire implementation.

As recently as in December 2022, the Indian and Chinese troops clashed near the LAC along the Arunachal border in Tawang, resulting in soldiers on both sides being injured.

Tawang town is inhabited by more than 50,000 people, called Little Tibet by China. It is one of the contentious areas that China claims as its own. While tensions between India and China prevailed since April 2020 due to multiple standoffs in eastern Ladakh, the final disengagement of troops from Depsang and Demchok is under process.

SOLDIER ACCIDENT

An army soldier was killed and 13 people, including nine army personnel, were injured when their vehicle skidded off the road and overturned in Jammu and Kashmir's Kulgam.

6 DIE IN TWO ROAD ACCIDENTS IN MADHYA PRADESH

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	39	23	Mumbai	33	28
Bhopal	33	18	Panaji	32	24
Jaipur	36	24	Patna	35	27
Amritsar	36	18	Lucknow	36	22
Chennai	36	27	Port Blair	28	24
Kolkata	34	27	Imphal	31	19
Srinagar	27	05	Chandigarh	35	19

DECIDE

Eager for a Haryana redux, the saffron camp readies RSS, allies to take on opposition MVA

Congress vows 'adequate' representation to all constituents in MVA, but its unease with Uddhav's Sena continues

AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge asked me to conduct negotiations through mutual understanding. Talks are on about certain seats in Mumbai — Balasaheb Thorat, Congress leader

This time, the Sangh is with us in a more active way, albeit silently. The Viksit Bharat dream and development schemes will translate into victory for the BJP — Senior BJP functionary

At present, October 27 is the last date for registration for the home voting facility. If this deadline is extended, percentage of voting in the state will definitely increase — Rais Shaikh, SP MLA

BJP to reinforce Hindutva, trust allies in Maha poll

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR & SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @New Delhi/Mumbai

FOR a caste-driven ticket distribution in the rival camps in Maharashtra, the BJP has decided to inject a fair amount of Hindutva to keep its committed vote share. With a significant number of RSS workers active on the ground who would participate in 60,000 small meetings across the state in the run-up to the assembly polls on November 20, the BJP aims a Haryana redux in the state.

"This time, the Sangh is with us in a more active way, albeit silently, than in previous elections. The Viksit Bharat dream and a host of development schemes for the state will translate into victory for the BJP," said a senior BJP functionary.

Another BJP leader actively involved in the Maharashtra campaign said a crucial element of the party's strategy is to expose the Opposition efforts to undermine Hindutava and Bharat, domestically and internationally.

The ruling Mahayuti coalition, comprising BJP, Shivsena (Shinde faction), and NCP (Ajit Pawar), has nearly finalised seat-sharing arrangements, with the BJP expected to contest around 150-155 seats, followed by Shiv Sena and NCP for the remaining constituencies in the 288-member Assembly.

"To bolster their campaign, the BJP plans to organise rallies across more than two dozen locations where PM Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah and other senior party leaders will address," said a BJP leader.

Sources indicated that Modi is expected to conduct road shows in major cities like Pune to help polarise the electorate.

The party is also set to engage prominent Maratha leaders, such as Vinod Tawde, to enhance its outreach efforts. Furthermore, the party is making concerted efforts to connect with the growing Buddhist community in the state. The population of Buddhists is substantial, with the 2011 census indicating that about 5.81% of the state's population identifies itself as Buddhists.

Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar along with his party MP Sunil Tatkare inaugurates the LED van to campaign for the Assembly polls in Mumbai on Saturday | PTI

Former MP Ravindra Rai greets state BJP president Babulal Marandi and Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan after being appointed as BJP chief in Ranchi | PTI

On Budhni battlefield, chacha, bhatija in duel

A war of words has begun between former Madhya Pradesh chief minister Digvijaya Singh and his successor CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan's elder son Kartikey Singh Chouhan ahead of the November 13 bypoll in Chouhan's bastion Budhni. The septuagenarian Congress MP Digvijaya Singh, while taking to the social media platform X on Friday, posted about the 30-year-old Chouhan Jr purported video clip of campaigning in Budhni. While sharing the video, the Rajya Sabha member posted, "Kartikey, don't give such speeches from now on. Learn from your father Shivraj Singh Chouhan. In a democracy, both the government and the opposition work together in building the nation."

CM Conrad's wife seeks to breach Fort Cong

All eyes are on Gambegre in Meghalaya's Garo Hills as Dr Mehtab Chandee A Sangma, wife of CM Conrad K Sangma, is making her debut in electoral politics from this Assembly seat in the November 13 by-election. She is among six candidates who filed nominations. Gambegre is a Congress bastion. The election of sitting Congress MLA Saleng A Sangma to the Lok Sabha from the Tura seat necessitated the by-poll. Mehtab, who is from National People's Party (NPP) that Conrad heads, is facing a tough contest from the candidates of Congress, TMC and BJP, each of them holding sway in the constituency. The Congress fielded Jingjang Marak who is a close associate of Saleng.

BJP working prez to check rift in J'khand

MUKESH RANJAN @Ranchi

THE BJP on Saturday appointed former MP Ravindra Kumar Rai as its working president in Jharkhand, a decision that came amid rumblings in the party over ticket distribution for assembly elections.

Of the 66 candidates declared so far by the BJP, 35 are turncoats, which triggered resentment among party leaders. Sensing the negative fallout on polls, BJP general secretary (organization) BL Santosh directed party's poll managers to engage with disgruntled leaders and foster a positive atmosphere.

According to sources, Rai was in touch with the JMM after he was denied a ticket. Assam CM and Jharkhand election co-incharge Himanta Biswa Sarma visited Rai's to placate him. After the meeting, Rai rejected the buzz about him joining the JMM, describing him as a "dedicated party worker".

A statement issued by BJP national general secretary Arun Singh said the appointment of Rai as the party's working president in Jharkhand will be effective immediately.

After ticket denial, many BJP leaders have filed nominations as independent candidates from their constituencies. They include Louis Marandi, Satyanand Jha Batul, Laxman Tudu, Basko Besra, and Keadr Hazra. Many have left the BJP, hoping to get tickets from other parties. Santosh, in his directive to the Jharkhand poll managers, emphasised preventing further resignations and reaching out to disgruntled leaders to stave off damage to the party in the elections.

The turncoats who got a BJP nomination were former CM Champai Soren, his son Babulal Soren among others.

Cong announces 3rd list of 39 candidates, gains 2 more in its share of 85 seats in MVA

PREETHA NAIR & SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @New Delhi/Mumbai

CONGRESS on Saturday released a list of 39 candidates for the upcoming Maharashtra assembly elections. The party has announced 87 candidates so far. Though the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) comprising the Congress, NCP (Sharad Pawar), and Shiv Sena (Uddhav Thackeray) announced that they would contest 85 seats each, the Congress has got two more seats to contest.

The third list, released on Saturday late evening has 16 candidates while the second list of 23 candidates in the afternoon. The party has fielded Sachin Sawant from Andheri West and Mohanrao Marotrao Ambade from Nanded South.

In Kolhapur North, Rajesh Bharat Latkar has been fielded while Prithviraj Gulabrao Patil will contest from Sangli.

In the ST reserved seat Gadchiroli, the party has fielded Manohar Tulshiram Poreti and Manikrao Thakare contest from Digras. While Rana Dalipkumar Sanada will contest from Khamgaon, Dr Hemant Nanda Chimote will be in ST seat Melghat.

In Nagpur South— a disputed seat between the Congress and Shiv Sena (UBT), the party has fielded Girish Pandav from that seat.

While Kalu Badheliya has been fielded from Kandivali East, Yashwant Singh will contest from Charkop against BJP's Yogesh Sagar. The party has fielded Ganesh Yadav from Sion Koliwada .

The party has fielded Suresh Bhoyar against BJP state president Chandrashekhar Bawankule from Kamthi.

Shekhar Shende will contest from Wardha. The party released the first list of 48 candidates on Thursday.

The names of candidates were finalized at a meeting of the Central Election Committee (CEC) chaired by party chief Malllikarjun Kharge on Friday evening. Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi, K C Venugopal, and state leaders attended the meeting.

AICC in-charge Maharashtra, Ramesh Chennithala, said all constituents will be given representation as part of the MVA alliance. "Samajwadi Party, CPM, CPI and AAP are part of MVA. We are giving representation to all the parties, but seats are limited," he said.

In its first list, the party retained several sitting MLAs and fielded senior leaders including Nana Patole and former CM Prithviraj Chavan. The party also fielded former ministers Nitin Raut and Balasaheb Thorat from Nagpur North and Sangamner.

CONG MINISTER'S JIBE AT SITA SOREN SPARKS ROW

MUKESH RANJAN @Ranchi

THE National Scheduled Tribe Commission on Saturday sought a report from the Jharkhand government within three days on the state minister Irfan Ansari's alleged derogatory remarks about BJP leader Sita Soren. An FIR has also been lodged against the Congress leader at Jamtara police station over the remarks, which triggered a political row.

The BJP has fielded Sita Soren, the eldest daughter-in-law of Shibu Soren, in Jamtara against Ansari. The ST commission issued the notice to the chief secretary and DGP of Jharkhand after taking cognizance of media reports on the remarks. A Congress delegation submitted a memorandum to the Election Commission demanding action against the BJP for allegedly tarnishing the image of Ansari. On Friday, the BJP's state unit filed a complaint with the EC accusing Ansari of making derogatory remarks about Sita Soren. Soren shared a video of the alleged remarks on X, demanding an apology from the Congress minister. In response, Ansari referred to the video as "tampered".

RSS says Hindus must remain united against caste and language divisions

NAMITA BAJPAI @Lucknow

UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath received strong support for his remark 'Batenge toh Katenge' (divided we fall) from the Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS) in Mathura on Saturday. RSS Sarkaryawahak (general secretary) Dattatreya Hosabale, while interacting with media persons after two-day deliberations among senior Sangh functionaries, including chief Mohan Bhagwat, at its national executive in Mathura, batted for unity in Hindu society.

"If the Hindu society does not remain united, then 'Katenge to Batenge' in current parlance could be a reality," said Hosabale.

CM Adityanath has been calling for social unity, stressing that division on caste lines would be detrimental to society. He has been covertly opposing the opposition's demand for a caste census.

Hosabale, on Saturday, said unity was imperative as a division on lines of forward-backwards, caste, and language would be detrimental to the existence of the Hindus. "The unity of Hindus is for the benefit of people and the betterment of society. It will make everyone happy. Certain powers are active in breaking the Hindu society, so caution is necessary," said Hosabale.

If the Hindu society does not remain united, then 'Katenge to Batenge' in current parlance could be a reality. The unity of Hindus is for the benefit of people and the betterment of society. It will make everyone happy

Dattatreya Hosabale, RSS Gen Secy

On the perceived tussle between Sangh and the BJP, Hosabale, on a diplomatic note, said that Sangh was a public organisation and did not have any tussle with any party. "We meet all -- BJP, Congress and industrialists. We want a society free from hatred," he added.

Significantly, CM Yogi met RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat in Gautam Kutir, Mathura, on Tuesday evening. The meeting came ahead of the national executive meeting of RSS's Akhil Bharatiya Karyakari Mandal. The CM had also called upon RSS general secretary Hosabale. Yogi had a closed-door meeting with Bhagwat in Sapta Kutir for over two-and-half hours.

According to the RSS spokesperson, the CM discussed some national issues with Bhagwat. Meanwhile, Hosabale expressed concern over the frequent emergence of religious conversion cases from different places. He also talked about the attacks on Hindus during Ganesh Visarjan and Durga Pooja.

"The Hindu society needs to protect itself and live unitedly," he said.

1st pvt military aircraft assembly unit in Vadodara

DILIP SINGH KSHATRIYA @Ahmedabad

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi and his Spanish counterpart, Pedro Sanchez, are scheduled to jointly inaugurate the TATA Aircraft Complex for the manufacture of C-295 aircraft by Tata Advanced Systems at TATA Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) in Vadodara on October 28.

The complex, dedicated to manufacturing C-295 military aircraft, marks India's first private sector Final Assembly Line (FAL) for military aviation. According to a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) on Saturday, while the aviation giant Airbus will deliver 16 aircraft directly from Spain, TASL will manufacture the remaining 40 in India, building a complete ecosystem from assembly and testing to delivery and lifecycle maintenance.

Apart from Tatas, leading defence public sector units such as Bharat Electronics Ltd. and Bharat Dynamics Ltd, as well as private Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises, will contribute to this programme.

Earlier in October 2022, the Prime Minister had laid the foundation stone for the Vadodara FAL.

Modi to inaugurate projects worth ₹4k crore in Amreli

The PM will inaugurate and lay the foundation stone for various development projects worth over ₹700 crore of the water supply department in Amreli district. In Amreli, PM Modi will also inaugurate projects worth ₹4,900 crore, including the Bharat Mata Sarovar—a check dam upgrade raising capacity to 24.5 crore liters

In Amreli district, PM Modi will also inaugurate projects worth ₹4,900 crore, including the Bharat Mata Sarovar—a check dam upgrade raising capacity to 24.5 crore liters, benefiting irrigation in surrounding villages.

The PM will inaugurate and lay the foundation stone for various development projects worth over ₹700 crore of the water supply department in Amreli district. Projects to be inaugurated include Navda to Chavand bulk pipeline which will provide an additional 28 crore litres of water to approximately 67 lakh beneficiaries across 36 cities and 1,298 villages of Botad, Amreli, Junagadh, Rajkot, and Porbandar districts.

Foundation stone of Pasavi Group Augmentation Water Supply Scheme Phase 2 in Bhavnagar district will also be laid which will benefit 95 villages in the Mahuva, Talaja, and Palitana talukas, in Bhavnagar district.

The day's agenda includes road infrastructure improvements across NH 151, NH 151A, and NH 51, and the Bhuj-Naliya Rail Gauge Conversion Project, enhancing socio-economic development in Kutch. Water projects worth over Rs 700 crore, including the Navda to Chavand bulk pipeline and the Pasavi Water Supply Scheme, will bring water access to over 67 lakh people across multiple districts.

PM Modi will dedicate the Bhuj-Naliya gauge conversion project to the nation. The project, costing Rs 1094 crore, includes 24 major and 254 minor bridges, along with 3 road overbridges and 30 road underbridges, accelerating socio-economic development in Kutch district. Besides, the PM will lay the foundation stone for ₹200 crore worth of tourism-related projects, including a world-class sustainable ecotourism development at the Karli Recharge Reservoir.

AHMEDABAD DIARY

DILIP SINGH KSHATRIYA
Our correspondent in Gujarat
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Folk artist's remarks spark tribal anger

A controversy around folk artist Rajbha Gadhvi's remarks simmers in Gujarat as tribal communities continue to express anger despite his public apology. Gadvi's viral video, in which he spoke about incidents in Kenya and unsafe conditions in certain Indian forests including Dang-Ahwa in Gujarat, has ignited a backlash. Gadhvi purportedly said from a dais, "One could get robbed at night in Dang-Ahwa." Dang-Ahwa is a tribal-dominated district. Tribal leaders from the BJP and the Congress condemned Gadhvi's statements, and the king of Dang has barred him from entering the region.

BJP membership drops by 5 lakh

During its membership drive from September 1 to October 15, the BJP's primary membership in Gujarat reportedly decreased by 5 lakh, falling from 1.13 crore in 2020 to 1.08 crore. Despite the BJP's three-decade dominance in Gujarat across the Lok Sabha, assembly, and local body polls, the drop in membership has raised eyebrows among state and Delhi leaders. The campaign, which is led by BJP state president CR Patil, aimed for 2 crore new members but achieved only 1.08 crore. The drive now shifts to converting the new members into active participants in party affairs.

Rumblings in Cong, BJP amid bypoll campaign

The BJP and Congress are facing discontent after fielding candidates for the Vav assembly by-election. The Congress has nominated Gulab Singh Rajput and the BJP Swaroopji Thakor. The Congress has won the lone Banaskantha Lok Sabha seat in Gujarat — Ganiben Thakor is the MP. The bypoll has become a battle of pride for BJP as Vav comes under Banaskantha Lok Sabha constituency. Swaroopji aims for redemption after his loss in 2022. Congress's Rajput, who won the 2019 Tharad by-election, seeks a comeback after his defeat. Congress leader Thakarshi Rabari, asked to contest as a 'dummy' candidate, opted out in protest.

22 tonnes
Of cheddar was stolen in UK

GLOBAL WEATHER
LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	11	2	SNY	Los Angeles	26	15	SNY
Colombo	32	26	SNY	Melbourne	24	15	SNY
Dhaka	33	25	SNY	Moscow	10	3	SNY
Dubai	34	30	SNY	New York	23	12	SNY
Houston	28	16	SNY	Singapore	31	27	SNY
Istanbul	18	11	SNY	Toronto	21	13	SNY
London	18	13	LR	Washington	19	9	LR

Iran's warning stokes fear of wider regional war

Tel Aviv tells Tehran it would end up paying a very heavy price if it responds to strikes; Iran claims the aerial raids caused limited damage

UN chief deeply alarmed by escalation of strikes

United Nations: United Nations chief Antonio Guterres on Saturday said he was "deeply alarmed" by the escalation of violence in the Middle East after Israel carried out deadly air strikes in Iran. Guterres "urgently reiterates his appeal to all parties to cease all military actions, including in Gaza and Lebanon," his spokesman Stephane Dujarric said in a statement, calling for "maximum efforts to prevent an all-out regional war and return to the path of diplomacy."

Lebanese media says Israel blew up houses

Beirut: Lebanese state media said the Israeli army dynamited houses in Lebanese border villages on Saturday. The official National News Agency said "the army of the Israeli enemy has since dawn blown up and destroyed houses" in the border village of Adaisseh. The NNA also reported "large explosions" in the border village of Kfar Kila, saying the blasts were heard across the south as columns of smoke rose above the area.

Opposition pans govt for not exacting heavy price

Jerusalem: Opposition Leader Yair Lapid on Saturday said Iran should have "paid a much heavier price" than the damage caused by Israel's overnight strikes, *The Times of Israel* reported. Writing on X, Lapid said, "the decision not to attack strategic and economic targets in Iran was wrong," adding that Iran leads the "axis of evil" and should "pay a heavy price for its belligerence." Yisrael Beytenu, former defense minister, said Iran will continue trying to obtain nuclear arms

TEHRAN

IRAN warned on Saturday it would defend itself after Israeli air strikes killed at least two soldiers and further stoked fears of a full-scale regional war in the Middle East.

Israel warned Iran would "pay a heavy price" if it responded to the strikes, and the United States, Germany and Britain demanded Tehran not escalate the conflict further.

Other countries, including many of Iran's neighbours, condemned Israel's strikes and some, such as Russia, urged both sides to show restraint and avoid what Moscow dubbed a "catastrophic scenario".

The Islamic republic insisted it had the "right and the duty" to defend itself, while its Lebanese ally Hezbollah said it had already launched rocket salvos targeting five residential areas in northern Israel.

The Israeli army said 80 projectiles were fired across the border on Saturday.

Confirming its own strikes after explosions and anti-aircraft fire echoed around Tehran, the Israel military said it had hit Iranian missile factories and military facilities in several regions.

The "retaliatory strike has been completed and the mission was fulfilled", while Israeli aircraft "returned safely", a military spokesman added.

Iran confirmed Israel had targeted military sites in Tehran province around the capital and other parts of the country, saying the raids caused "limited damage" but killed two soldiers.

Israel had vowed to retaliate after October 1, when Iran fired around 200 missiles in only the second ever direct attack against its arch-foe. Most of those missiles were intercepted but one person was killed.

Women walk past an anti-Israel billboard covering the facade of a building in Tehran on Saturday | AFP

"Iran attacked Israel twice, including in locations that endangered civilians, and has paid the price for it," Israeli military spokesperson Rear Adm Daniel Hagari said.

"We are focused on our war objectives in the Gaza Strip and Lebanon. It is Iran that continues to push for a wider regional escalation."

Hagari added: "If the regime in Iran were to make the mistake of beginning a new round of escalation, we will be obligated to respond."

Tehran carried on largely as normal on Saturday after a night of explosions from Israeli strikes reverberating across the city, accompanied by criss-crossing trails from air defences.

By mid-morning the bustling capital had resumed its usual rhythm as buses wove their way through the streets, taking troubled Iranians to work.

Iranian officials and media have played down the attack, but on the streets of Tehran many were concerned that it had marked a new escalation and a step towards all-out war.

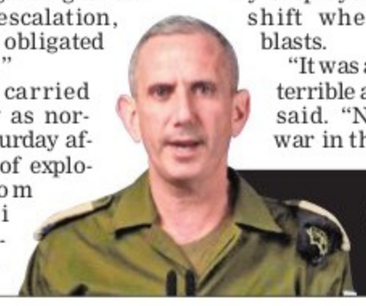
Hooman, a 42-year-old factory employee, was on a night shift when he heard the blasts.

"It was an echoing sound... terrible and horrifying," he said. "Now that there is war in the Middle East, we are afraid that we will be dragged into it." Some in Tehran voiced fears over an escalation of the conflict.

"If they attack, it will be us who will be crushed," said Moharam, a 51-year-old day labourer. Others, however, said they were entirely unaware an attack had even happened.

The Israeli retaliation drew condemnation from Hamas, Iraq, Pakistan, Syria and Saudi Arabia, which warned against further escalation. Jordan stated that Israeli jets had not used its airspace. Turkey was one of the most outspoken critics, calling for an end to "terror created by Israel".

Israel is already engaged in combat on two fronts.



> If the regime in Iran were to make the mistake of beginning a new round of escalation, we will be obligated to respond
>
> Rear Adm Daniel Hagari, Israeli military spokesperson

The United Nations has warned the "darkest moment" of that conflict was unfolding, with Palestinians facing a dire humanitarian crisis and daily Israeli bombing.

Along with Hezbollah and Hamas, Iranian-allied groups in Yemen, Iraq and Syria, have carried out attacks during the fallout from the Gaza war.

At roughly the same time as Israel struck targets in Iran, the Syrian state news agency *SANA* said an Israeli air attack targeted military positions in central and southern Syria.

The Islamic Resistance in Iraq, a loose network of pro-Iran factions, claimed responsibility before dawn Saturday for a drone attack against a "military target" in northern Israel. On Friday, two people died from shrapnel wounds after a Hezbollah rocket barrage into Israel's north. *AFP/AP*

WAR WATCH
ISRAEL-GAZA: DAY 386

TOLL SO FAR
44,509

Survey shows US poll locked in dead heat in swing states

ATLANTA

JUST 10 days ahead of the Election Day, the US presidential race remained very tight with both Vice President Kamala Harris and former President Donald Trump locked in a dead heat for the popular votes in most swing states.

The final nationwide *CNN* poll found that 47% of likely voters support Democrat Harris and an equal 47 would endorse Republican Trump in the elections.

In the final *New York Times*/Siena College national poll from October 20 to 23, the two aspirants are tied at 48%. The remaining four per cent are yet to decide on their preference.

A separate poll conducted by the *Financial Times* and the University of Michigan's Ross School of Business, showed that 44% of respondents trust Trump to handle the economy as against 43% for Harris.

An analysis by FiveThirtyEight poll tracker, however, showed that Harris is having a slight edge over Trump with 1.7 percentage points.

To win the race for the White House, the successful candidate will have to secure 270 of the 538 electoral votes up for grabs. The seven key swing states which are seen to be crucial to determine the election results are Georgia, Michigan, Arizona, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Wisconsin and Nevada.

With almost all surveys throwing up a very tight race, both Trump and Harris are stepping up their efforts to garner more popular votes in the last stretches of their campaign trails. In the last rounds of rallies, Harris has been focusing on reproductive rights to woo the women voters. *PTI*

Demonstrators attend an opposition rally in Tbilisi on last Sunday | AP

Georgians in make or break poll to join EU

TBILISI

GEORGIANS headed to the polls on Saturday in a ballot many citizens see as a make-or-break vote on the opportunity to join the European Union.

The pre-election campaign in the South Caucasus nation of 3.7 million people which borders Russia has been dominated by foreign policy and marked by a bitter fight for votes and allegations of a smear campaign. It will determine whether Georgia gets back on track to EU membership or embraces authoritarianism and falls into Russia's orbit.

Some Georgians complained of intimidation and being pressured to vote for the ruling party, Georgian Dream, while the opposition accused the party of carrying out a "hybrid war" against its citizens.

A video shared on social media Saturday showed a man stuffing ballots into a box at a polling station in the town of Marneuli, 42 kms south of Tbilisi. Georgia's Interior Ministry said it launched an investigation and the Central Election Commission said a criminal case had been opened and that all results from the polling station would be declared invalid.

Ahead of the parliamentary election, Bidzina Ivanishvili — a shadowy billionaire who set up Georgian Dream and made his fortune in Russia — vowed again to ban opposition parties should his party win.

Georgian Dream will hold opposition parties "fully accountable under the full force of the law" for "war crimes" committed against the people of Georgia, Ivanishvili said at a pro-government rally in Tbilisi.

ASIA MATTERS

INDONESIA

150 ROHINGYA RESCUED AFTER AFTER U.N. PROD

More than 150 Rohingya refugees including women and children have been rescued off the c oast of Indonesia after their boat languished at sea for days, the United Nations refugee agency said. The boat carrying 152 people was anchored a mile off the coast of South Aceh district for days while officials decided whether to let them land, but they were finally brought ashore on Thursday afternoon. "Many of those on the boat were vulnerable women and children, victims of human trafficking," UNHCR's Faisal Rahman said, adding that UNHCR were assisting the refugees.

THAILAND

GOVT ASSURES ACTION IN iCON CASE

The government assured the public of swift progress in the iCon Group fraud investigation, with the Department of Special Investigation (DSI) now preparing to take it on as a special case, Bangkok Post reported. Dy PM Phumtham Wechayachai said the investigation meets the conditions for transferring the case to the DSI.

SINGAPORE

STAMFORD TYRES OWNER PASSES AWAY

Wee Kok Wah, founder of publicly listed company Stamford Tyres, died on Oct 21 after battling stomach cancer, *The Straits Times* reported. He was 78. After joining his father's company in 1970, Mr Wee secured distribution rights for Japanese and German tyre brands, and grew the petrol station and tyre shop business into one of the largest tyre and wheel distributors in the region. Besides representing various brands, Wee also started a wheel-making factory in Thailand and created Stamford's own brand of alloy wheels and tyres, which are sold globally.

Rescuers struggle to reach stranded people as rains batter Philippines

MANILA

RESCUERS in the Philippines raced Saturday to reach people still stranded in areas made inaccessible by flooding from Tropical Storm Trami, which has killed at least 97 people.

Trami battered the main island of Luzon and forced nearly half a million people to flee their homes as heavy rain caused widespread floods and landslides.

In the hardest-hit Bicol region, residents trapped on the roofs and upper floors of their homes were still awaiting desperately needed assistance, officials said.

"The floods have yet to subside. Calls asking for help are still pouring here," Bicol regional police director Andre Dizon said.

"We need to rescue them as soon as possible because starvation can be a problem. We're hearing reports that children are already getting sick."

In the region's Camarines Sur province, food and drinking water were in increasingly short supply as some areas remained completely submerged and difficult to access, he added. President Ferdinand Marcos visited the province on Saturday to inspect the damage.

People cross a river next to a bridge that collapsed after heavy rain near Manila | AFP

"Our main problem here is that many areas are still flooded," he told government officials during a briefing.

"We have flood control systems but the amount of water is unmanageable. This is climate change. This is all new, so we have to come up with new solutions too," Marcos added.

Trami's death toll rose Saturday as rescuers retrieved more bodies from floodwaters and landslide sites, mostly from the Bicol region and Batangas province, south of Manila.

Police have recorded 36 deaths in Bicol, most due to drowning.

The number of confirmed dead in Batangas has risen to 54, provincial police chief Jacinto Malinao told AFP, with at least 21 people missing.

Two were reported dead in separate incidents of electrocution and drowning in Cavite province, police said. *AFP*

Commonwealth agrees time has come for talks on legacy of slavery

APIA

THE Commonwealth's 56 members agreed the "time has come" for talks about the legacy of the "abhorrent" transatlantic slave trade Saturday, in a landmark summit declaration that raised the prospect of future reparations.

Gathering in Samoa, leaders from Britain and dozens of former colonies held lengthy and occasionally tense talks over one of the most sensitive aspects of their shared and troubled past.

In a joint statement, Commonwealth leaders noted calls for "reparatory justice" for the "abhorrent" transatlantic slave trade and the "enduring effects" of dispossessing Indigenous people, indentureship and colonialism.

"The time has come for a meaningful, truthful and respectful conversation towards forging a common future based on equity," a joint "Samoa Communique" said. African, Caribbean and Pacific nations want Britain – and other colonial powers – to atone for slavery and other ills of colonisation, and to start talks about compensation.

Malaysia's Foreign Minister Mohamad Hasan, from left, Malta's Minister of Foreign Affairs Ian Borh, Samoa's Prime Minister Fiame Naomi Mata'afa, centre, Commonwealth Secretary General Patricia Scotland and Rwanda's Minister of Foreign Affairs Olivier Nduhungirehe, right, attend the final press conference during the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Apia on Saturday | AFP

Many remain poorer than their one-time colonial masters and are still scarred by the brutal trade that saw an estimated 10-15 million enslaved people ripped from Africa over four centuries.

While Britain has expressed remorse for slavery in broad terms, London has baulked at the idea of paying financial reparations, which could come with a hefty price tag.

During the summit, London tried to avoid making explicit commitments while trying to retain some semblance of Commonwealth unity.

"I should be really clear here, in the two days we've been here, none of the discussions have been about money", British PM Keir Starmer said. *AFP*

Justice Yahya Afridi sworn in as Pakistan chief justice

ISLAMABAD

JUSTICE Yahya Afridi took oath as the 30th Chief Justice of Pakistan on Saturday in a ceremony attended by top government officials.

He replaced Qazi Faez Isa, who retired on Friday after reaching superannuation at the age of 65.

President Asif Ali Zardari administered the oath to the new chief justice as required under the Constitution of Pakistan.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, cabinet ministers, services chief, other officials and leading civilians attended the ceremony held at the President's House.

Justice Afridi was nominated as chief justice by a Special Parliamentary Committee (SPC) formed after the recently adopted 26th Constitutional Amendment, which brought numerous changes to the judiciary.

The SPC decided on the appointment against the previous rule by which the senior-most judge became the top judge under the seniority principle.

Under the old rule, senior puisne judge Justice Mansoor Ali Shah would have become the next chief.

Justice Afridi was the third on the seniority list of the judges and was among the top three judges sent to the SPC to nominate one as the chief justice. *PTI*

EXPRESS READ

G7 finalises $50 bn loan package to Ukraine

Washington: G7 leaders finalised details surrounding a $50 billion loan to aid Kyiv, backed by profits from Russian sovereign assets frozen after its invasion of Ukraine, according to a statement released on Friday. Leaders of the Group of Seven wealthy democracies said they "have reached a consensus on how to deliver" the loans of approximately $50 billion, with an aim to start disbursing funds by the end of this year. "The loan proceeds will be disbursed through multiple channels to support Ukraine's budgetary, military and reconstruction assistance," G7 leaders added. Their announcement came as world financial leaders gathered in Washington this week for meetings hosted by the International Monetary Fund and World Bank. They called on Moscow to end its war. *AFP*

JOB 6.8% increase in ESIC new enrollments of members to 20.74 lakh under the ESI Scheme in August 2024 compared to the year-ago period.

Q2FY25RESULTS

ICICI BANK PROFIT RISES 14.5% TO ₹11.7K CR, BEATS STREET ESTIMATE

Brokerages expected the bank's net income at ₹10,989 crore

BENN KOCHUVEEDAN @ Mumbai

SECOND-largest private sector lender ICICI Bank on Saturday reported a 14.5% rise in net income at ₹11,746 crore beating Street expectations, helped by healthy interest income against a marginal increase in operating expenses.

Brokerages were expecting the bank to log in only ₹10,989 crore in net income.

The bank told reporters in a concall on Saturday that the net interest income increased by 9.5% to ₹20,048 crore. The net interest margin printed at 4.27%, down from 4.36% in the previous quarter and 4.53% in the year-ago period.

The bank's cost of deposit grew by 35 basis points year-on-year and 4 basis points quarter-on-quarter to 4.88%. The lender's non-interest income grew 10.8% to ₹6,496 crore, with a 13.3% increase in fee income to ₹5,894 crore, driven largely by contributions from retail, rural, and business banking customers, the management said.

Asset side of the bank witnessed a steady expansion, with domestic loans growing 15.7% to ₹12.43 lakh crore. Retail loan portfolio, which accounts for the bank's 53% loan book, grew by 14.2%, while business loan book grew by 30%. The bank's deposit grew by a healthy 15.7% growth on-year at ₹14.98 lakh crore, while the average CASA ratio recording at 38.9%, down from 39.6% quarter-on-quarter.

Asset quality continued to be robust, with gross non-performing assets (GNPA) ratio narrowing to 1.97% compared to 2.15% in June 2024. The gross NPA additions were ₹5,073 crore during the quarter compared to ₹5,916 crore in the first quarter. Recoveries and upgrades of NPAs, excluding write-offs and sale, were Rs 3,319 crore during the quarter compared to ₹3,292 crore in Q1. Net NPA ratio remained nearly flat at 0.42% as against 0.43% in the previous quarter. The provisioning coverage ratio on non-performing loans stood at 78.5%.

The bank has written-off gross NPAs amounting to ₹3,336 crore in Q2 compared. The provisioning coverage ratio against non-performing loans was 78.5% on September 30, 2024.

The capital adequacy ratio, including profits for the first half of FY25, was 16.66%, with a Common Equity Tier-1 ratio at 15.96%. Treasury operations provided a boost, with gains of ₹680 crore compared to ₹85 crore loss in the same period last year the management said.

The bank added 90 branches in the first half of 2025, taking the branch network to 6,613 branches and 16,120 ATMs & cash recycling machines at as on 30 September 2024

GNPA RATIO FALLS TO 1.97% FROM 2.15% QOQ

Asset quality continued to be robust, with gross non-performing assets ratio narrowing to 1.97% as against 2.15% in June 2024. The gross NPA additions were ₹5,073 crore during the quarter compared to ₹5,916 crore in Q1FY24. Recoveries and upgrades of NPAs, excluding write-offs and sale, were ₹3,319 crore during the quarter as against ₹3,292 crore in Q1. Net NPA ratio remained nearly flat at 0.42% as against 0.43% in the last quarter.

Yes Bank net profit zooms nearly 146% to ₹553 crore

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ Mumbai

MID-sized private sector lender Yes Bank on Saturday reported a street beating set of numbers on all key parameters for the quarter ending September with net income zooming by over 150% to ₹553 crore from ₹225 crore in the same quarter last year.

The bank, rescued by an RBI initiated bailout in March 2020, reported healthy margins, robust core or net interest income and stable asset quality along with healthy asset and deposit growth numbers. In a concall with reporters on Saturday, the bank management said net interest income rose 14.3% to ₹2,200 crore from ₹1,925.1 crore a year ago, reflecting steady growth in core lending operations.

Net interest margin improved to 2.4% from 2.3% a year ago. However, it remained flat sequentially. Non-interest income came in at ₹1,407 crore or 1.4% of average assets annualised. "The bank continues to deliver as per the stated strategic objectives, with superior growth in SME and mid corporate segments, growth resumption in the corporate segment and calibration of growth in retail segment, aimed at profitability improvement. It continues to maintain nil priority sector lending shortfalls," Prashant Kumar, CEO and MD, told reporters.

Asset quality improved, with gross non-performing asset ratio falling to 1.6 from 1.7 YoY, while net NPA ratio remained stable at 0.5.

NEWSCOPE

RUSSIAN CRUDE WEIGHS MORE THAN DIAMONDS

GURBIR SINGH

IT'S double speak at its best. The imposition of western sanctions, part of the Russia 'punishment' package, has been selective. On the one hand, the ban on export of Russian diamonds destined for India has been tightly observed creating havoc in Surat's cutting and polishing industry. On the other, Russian crude oil has had a free run, benefiting some local and western stakeholders. What is sauce for the goose, is not sauce for the gander.

India does not produce rough diamonds. It is however the world's largest hub for cutting and polishing roughs, which it exports as polished stones and jewelry. Over the last few years, the vibrant industry, concentrated mainly around Surat and Mumbai, has seen a sharp slowdown with falling international orders and increasing competition from laboratory-grown diamonds.

CRISIS IN GUJARAT

A trade think-tank, Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI), says there has been a perceptible fall of 24.5 per cent in rough diamond imports from $18.5 billion in 2021-22 to $14 billion in 2023-24 triggering defaults, factory closures and widespread job losses in Surat and other centers.

To worsen the situation, since December 2023, the G-7 countries first nudged the European Union to stop all imports of Russian diamonds; and then from February this year turned the screws on India too. When the going was good, Surat, Navsari, Amreli and other centers for cutting and polishing diamonds had built up huge facilities, employing thousands of workers, and creating a huge inventory of imported roughs.

The largest supplier of roughs for Indian units has been the Russian state-owned giant, Alrosa, that accounts for over 31 million carats of diamonds and 31 percent of the world's production. With respect to India, Alrosa accounted for nearly 27 percent of roughs supply by volume – the largest source for Indian companies.

But when the US and the European Union declared polished diamonds and jewelry using Russian roughs to be persona non grata, it was a blow the Gujarat hub has yet to recover from. With every export consignment needing a 'source certificate' the Gujarat diamantaires sank with rejected and cancelled orders. Thousands of workers have been thrown out on the streets as units closed. Anecdotal evidence showed about 70 of them committed suicide.

The Gujarat diamond polishing centers employ over 8 lakh workers and as many as 25 lakh are indirectly involved in ancillary industries. The human cost has been staggering.

CRUDE BENEFITS

It's been a different story for India's crude oil imports from Russia. Before 2021 and prior to the start of Russia's Ukraine war, India imported 4.2 million barrels per day (mmbd) of crude – most of it from Iraq (24 percent), Saudi Arabia (16 percent) and US (10 percent). Russia then accounted for only 2 percent. After the Ukraine sanctions were imposed, Russian crude was offered at a discount and India grabbed the opportunity.

By the end of July, this year, India overtook China as the world's biggest importer of Russian oil. India's overall imports for August showed Russian crude accounted for a record 44% of the country's imports, rising to 2.07 mmbpd. The ban on import of Russian crude and petroleum products via the maritime by third countries did not seem to exist for India.

The G-7 nations had imposed a price cap of $60 per barrel on Russian crude with the fiat that no country could buy oil from Russia above the rate. This was a December 2022 measure when the West found crude oil sanctions were being universally flouted. By imposing a cap, the G-7 thought it would push down profit margins for Russia. For the West, keeping Russian crude flowing was a sleight-of-hand to avoid an oil shortage and the resultant spike in prices.

The $60/barrel cap never worked. It merely helped India, and perhaps other buyers too, negotiate a better rate with Russian companies, estimated at about $5/b below the market rate. Interestingly, the biggest beneficiaries of Russian crude imports were the petroleum refiners in India; and the western companies importing the petroleum products. In FY 2023, India exported $86.28 billion in petroleum, oil and lubricants (POL) products, making it the world's second-largest exporter. And the chief beneficiary has been the Mukesh Ambani-promoted Reliance Industries and its refinery complex at Jamnagar, Gujarat.

The other refiner who has benefited from cheap Russian imports is Nayara Energy, in which Russian state oil giant Rosneft has a 49.1 percent stake. Nayara operates a refinery at Vadinar, Gujarat, near the Reliance complex.

Most of these POL products were exported to the European Union, UK and the United States. It is unimaginable they did not know that the petroleum products they were buying were manufactured from Russian crude. They were complicit in breaching their own embargo! It is estimated that in FY2023, the US imported $63 million worth of POL products refined in Vadinar, where half the crude refined was of Russian origin.

Diamonds and oil, juxtaposed against each other, present a quixotic picture. Trade in diamonds is not a big deal in global economics; neither is the human cost of shutting units in Gujarat. It can be banned. On the other hand, the West needs Russian oil to keep flowing to stabilize prices and to ensure a steady flow of petroleum products even if it is via a lightly camouflaged route through the Gujarat refineries. So no ban.

SOURAV ROY

'CPI without food items will make inflation targeting futile'

BENN KOCHUVEEDAN @ Mumbai

THE Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das has called for reforming the international financial architecture to ensure equitable voice and representation for emerging economies, and also overhauling the debt resolution architecture for vulnerable countries.

The governor also said pushing inflation out of the consumer price index basket will make inflation targeting meaningless. A section of economists believe it will make inflation targeting more effective.

Food items constitute as much as 46.9% of the CPI basket. While CPI rose to 5.65% in September from 3.56% from August, food prices as a whole rose 9.24% in the months with vegetable costs alone surging 36%. Rejecting the call from the chief economic adviser to the government to strip volatile food prices from inflation targets, saying such a move would make no sense to normal consumers, Das said, eliminating food, which accounts for nearly half the consumer inflation basket, would amount to "not having a target at all," Das told the annual meeting of the World Bank and IMF in Washington on Friday, where leading finance ministers and central bank governors meet, under the aegis of the Macro Week 2024 organised by the Peterson Institute for International Economics.

"The first and foremost priority should be accorded to reforming the international financial architecture by prioritising inclusive global governance frameworks that better reflect the realities of today's global economy," Das said. The governor also said there is a pressing need to improve global financial regulation to manage systemic risks posed by private capital and non-bank financial intermediaries.

"The current system, while foundational, needs to reform itself to ensure equitable voice and representation for the emerging economies. Enhanced access to resources and a stronger role in the governance of multilateral institutions such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank will not only enhance their legitimacy but also foster more serious global cooperation in addressing macro-financial challenges," Das said.

Bikaji Foods to acquire majority stake in THF

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @New Delhi

BIKAJI FOODS RETAIL (BFRL), a subsidiary of Bikaji Foods International Limited, will make investment of ₹131 crore for acquisition of 53.02% stake in The Hazelnut Factory Food Products Private Limited (THF), a Lucknow-based food and beverages company.

With this, Bikaji aims to set up a house of brands to cater to unique customer tastes and preferences and establish Bikaji as a key player in quick service restaurant (QSR) domain. The Hazelnut Factory is an established Café-cum-Artisanal sweets brand having a retail presence in 6 stores in Lucknow and one store each in Kanpur and Delhi. The brand offers specialty coffee, artisanal sweets, bakery and patisserie along with a range of café Menu. The transaction will be done in tranches with initial investment of ₹61 crore via primary subscription and secondary purchases.

ITR filing date for corporates extended

DIPAK MONDAL @ New Delhi

THE government has extended the deadline for filing income tax returns for assessment year 2024-25 for companies to November 15, 2024, from October 31. The extension of deadline is also applicable for persons and partners of a firm, whose accounts are required to be audited under the Income Tax Act.

According to experts, the CBDT's decision to extend the deadline for filing income tax returns seems to be keeping in mind the upcoming festive season.

"By extending the deadline to November 15, 2024, taxpayers and professionals alike can prioritize accuracy and compliance without the stress of last-minute filings amidst celebrations," says Rajat Mohan, senior partner at AMRG & Associates.

He further says that the move not only strengthens the trust between taxpayers and the administration but also aligns with a broader objective of creating a supportive and flexible tax compliance environment.

The extension allows taxpayers an opportunity to use the additional time for thorough reviews and avoid potential penalties, contributing to a smoother compliance experience for all.

PFC, BEML sign MoU to enhance collaboration in infra and defence sectors

New Delhi: Power Finance Corporation (PFC), a Maharatna Company and a leading non-banking financial company (NBFC) in power sector, has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with BEML Limited, a Schedule 'A' public sector undertaking under the Ministry of Defence. This partnership aims to enhance collaboration in financing and development of key infra projects. The MoU was signed at PFC's office in the presence of Parminder Chopra, CMD of PFC, and Shantanu Roy, CMD of BEML. Rajiv Ranjan Jha, director (projects); Sandeep Kumar, director (finance) from PFC, & Anil Jerath, director (finance) from BEML were present. BEML is set to make major strides in railway and metro sectors, as well as initiate new projects in defence, aerospace, and mining industries.

HPCL shines at NHAI exhibition with cutting-edge wayside amenities

Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) made a significant impact at the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) exhibition, held in conjunction with the launch of Humsafar Policy by Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, in Delhi. The policy aims to enhance services on highways and expressways by onboarding existing and upcoming service providers. At the event, HPCL's stall showcased its extensive nationwide presence on national highways, highlighting its world-class wayside amenities designed to provide convenience and comfort to highway users. The stall featured HPCL's pioneering efforts in promoting green initiatives, including electric vehicle charging, CNG and LNG.

Canara Bank new branch opened at Chandbali, Odisha on Oct 21

Bhubaneswar: With the aim of providing convenient opportunities to customers, Canara Bank has opened its 174th Branch in Odisha at Chandbali. The bank's Odisha head & general manager Jagdish Chandra inaugurated the branch in presence of hundreds of customers along with Bhadrak regional head, assistant general manager V. Agilan, LDM Nageswar Rao. Bank is planning to open more branches in Odisha within next few months. GM Jagdish Chander said the bank is providing social banking and digital banking services to enable customers to make cashless transactions in tune with Govt. of India initiative viz. BHIM APP, QR CODE, POS MACHINES etc. Canara Bank shall offer all basic banking services and will cater all specific needs of customers through wide varieties of retail, MSME and agricultural products.

Business & Beyond

Steel Authority of India Limited receives prestigious SHRM HR Excellence Awards

New Delhi: Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has been awarded with SHRM - HR Excellence Awards for 'Excellence in Inclusion, Equity & Diversity' and 'Excellence in Managing the Distributed Workforce' categories at the prestigious SHRM India Annual Conference 2024 held in New Delhi. The awards are a testimony to the pioneering HR practices and initiatives being undertaken across SAIL, at its various plants and units spread nationwide, for inclusive growth of workforce in the organisation. The company regards its employees as fundamental to its success and at the heart of all its operations. SAIL has been continually undertaking various steps for better employee motivation and engagement.

Jan Aushadhi Kendras achieves historic milestone of ₹1,000 cr sales in 2024-25

Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) has reached a remarkable milestone by achieving sales worth ₹1,000 crore in October 2024, a significant advancement from previous year when this target was met in December 2023. This achievement highlights the growing trust and reliance of the people on affordable and quality medicines. This was possible only with the unwavering support of the citizens, who have embraced the initiative by purchasing medicines from over 14,000 Jan Aushadhi Kendras across the country. This substantial growth is a testament to PMBI's commitment to making healthcare accessible and affordable for all by reducing out of pocket expenditure.

Sultan of Johor Cup: India claim bronze

Goalkeeper Bikramjit Singh showcased nerves of steel, making three crucial saves as the India outwitted New Zealand 3-2 in a thrilling shootout to secure the bronze medal at the Sultan of Johor Cup junior men's hockey tournament here on Saturday. The match had ended in a 2-2 stalemate in regulation time.

New Zealand players celebrate beating India in the second Test & sealing the three-match series on Saturday | PTI

FALL OF A JUGGERNAUT

Spinner Santner's historic effort ends India's streak as host suffer first home series defeat since 2012

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN @ Pune

Mitchell Santner took 13 wickets in the second Test in Pune | SPORTZPICS

THIS may be harsh but Mitchell Santner's Test career peaked after his first experience of the longest format. Making his debut in the pink ball game against Australia in 2015, the visitors were below par at 5/98 when the then 23-year-old walked out well before lights had taken effect. Australia sensed blood. Santner wasn't going to lie down and be tickled. He stepped out and square drove Peter Siddle for four. Hello, Test cricket, meet Mr Santner. It was quite the introduction.

When he was going through his paces at the nets before the second Test in Pune, almost nine years removed from the opening encounter, the 28-Test man was still searching for something to eclipse that moment Adelaide moment.

It came on Day Two at the Maharashtra Cricket Association Stadium in Pune when he ran through the spine of the hosts' batting line-up to set up New Zealand's first-ever Test series win on Indian soil. Twenty-four hours later, he repeated the trick by helping the Kiwis seal the deal, an unthinkable achievement less than a month ago when he picked up one wicket across three innings in Galle. In that away Test series loss over Sri Lanka, the left-arm fingerspinner had combined returns of 1/197 in 66.2 overs.

On Friday and Saturday, the 32-year-old toppled his own recent history to bowl the Indians out on a tricky black-soil surface at the Maharashtra Cricket Association Stadium at Pune. By the time the still boy-faced man had finished his masterpiece, he had become the owner of a record more appropriate for the likes of Shane Warne, Muttiah Muralidaran, Nathan Lyon or Saqlain Mushtaq – one of the best match figures (13/157) by a visiting spinner on these shores in post-war history. How did he do it? Some cricketing smarts as well as watching Washington Sundar when the Indian offie was bowling. "I tend to do that a lot in white-ball cricket - change the pace," Santner told the media on Friday after his career-best figures of 7/53 (he had never before had a four-wicket haul in Tests). "I think today we kind of spoke about that kind of just under 90 kph. (It) looked like it was spinning and then for a period there when you went over the top, it was actually bouncing a lot so we spoke about maybe going a little bit slower. But I just think at the start it was (about) kind of (bowling) fast into it and then it kind of changed as the day went on with the pitch and I think Washi (Washington Sundar) did that as well."

Varying pace comes naturally for Santner because of the primacy of his white-ball skills. When queried whether he had used that transferability of skills from the shorter formats to the longest format, he replied in the affirmative. "Yeah, through the second-half of my spell where we found out that change of pace was working," he said. "Some would spin, some would skid, some would stay down, trying to play with the angles of the crease as well and land it in a similar spot. Have watched Jaddu (Ravindra Jadeja) and (R) Ashwin do that here over the years. That's what we tried to do."

If Friday's lunch was Santner's opening act in his own play, Saturday's lunch was piece de resistance. The hosts were going along swimmingly well when the Wellington-born spinner put the brakes. Pressed into service in the fourth over after a rapid start, he first induced Rohit Sharma's inside edge for a simple catch at forward short-leg.

Even though Yahasvi Jaiswal and Shubman Gill were going at well over six per over, it felt like a ball would arrive with both their names on it from Santner. He first nipped out the right-hander, this time the outside edge going to first slip. He had once again varied his pace, this time a lot faster and not much flight.

Jaiswal, who was taking the attack, wasn't playing the forward defence; on this pitch, it was loaded with risk. But the spinners weren't bringing him forward all that much. However, Santner did the needful for just enough deliveries and the 22-year-old had to come forward. There was no turn -- the previous had spun sharply -- and the outside edge was pouched sharply. A quickfire 77 off 65 had got the fans believing but this was the beginning of the end, an abrupt closing to the hosts' 12-year unbeaten series record at home.

Next over, Rishabh Pant called Kohli for a quick single but the former was short by a couple of inches. Santner, bowling unchanged from the more productive media box end since the third over, had hit his spot by now. And he had his eyes on the target -- Kohli -- for a second innings running. To be fair to India's No. 4, he was largely flawless and was playing an innings filled with control. But on a strip like this where there's lots of natural variation, consistent turn and kick, every ball had the potential to be his final one. Santner went wide of the crease and hit a good length. This one went in with the angle and Kohli was aught in no man's land. Trapped in front.

As he departed, the fans took that as cue to make for the exit gates to try and salvage their Saturday. For the hosts, there would be lots of uncomfortable questions between now and the time they depart for Australia in a little over two weeks. A proud 12-year home record had crumbled in front of their eyes. Santner, though, has lived his Test dream twice in two days after being an afterthought for close to nine years.

SCOREBOARD

New Zealand 1st Innings: 259; India 1st Innings: 156; New Zealand 2nd Innings (O/N 198/5 in 53 ovs): Blundell b Jadeja 41, Phillips 48 n.o, Santner c Bumrah b Jadeja 4, Southee c Sharma b Ashwin 0, Patel c Sundar b Jadeja, O'Rourke run out (Sundar/Jadeja) 0 **Extras:** (LB-5, NB-3) 8; **Total** (all out in 69.4 ovs): 255; **FoW:** 6-231, 7-237, 8-238, 9-241; **Bowling:** Ashwin 25-2-97-2, Sundar 19-0-56-4, Jadeja 19.4-3-72-3, Bumrah 6-1-25-0; **India 2nd Innings:** Jaiswal c Mitchell b 77, Sharma c Young b Santner 8, Gill c Mitchell b Santner 23, Kohli lbw b Santner, 17 Pant run out (Santner/Tom) 0, Sundarc Young b Phillips 21, Khan b Santner 9, Jadeja c Southee b Patel 42, Ashwin c Mitchell b Santner 18, Akash Deep c Ravindra b Patel 1, Bumrah 10 n.o; **Extras:** (B-12, LB-6, NB-1) 19; **Total** (all out 60.2 ovs): 245; **FoW:** 1-34, 2-96, 3-127, 4-127, 5-147, 6-165, 7-167, 8-206, 9-229; **Bowling:** Southee 2-0-15-0, O'Rourke 1-0-5-0, Santner 29-2-104-6, Patel 12.2-0-43-2, Phillips 16-60-1.

WTC STANDINGS

Team	M	W	L	D	Pts	Pct
Ind	13	8	4	1	98	62.82
Aus	12	8	3	1	90	62.5
SL	9	5	4	0	60	55.6
NZ	10	5	5	0	60	50
SA	7	3	3	1	40	47.62
ENG	19	9	9	1	93	40.79
PAK	10	4	6	0	40	33.33
BAN	9	3	6	0	33	30.56
WI	9	1	6	2	20	18.52

INDIA'S TEST SERIES LOSSES AT HOME THIS CENTURY

- 2024 New Zealand 2-0* Tom Latham
- 2012 England 2-1 Alastair Cook
- 2004 Australia 2-1 Ricky Ponting/ Adam Gilchrist
- 2000 South Africa 2-0 Hansie Cronje

** one more match remaining*

3 Mitchell Santner is the third visiting spinner to take a 10-wicket haul in India since 2021 (Nathan Lyon and Ajaz Patel)

5 This is only the fifth instance of a team beating India in a series in India since 1985. England (1985 and 2012), Australia (2004) & South Africa (2000) are the other three teams to have achieved the feat.

It was a collective failure: Rohit after series defeat

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN @ Pune

ROHIT Sharma said the reason behind the Pune loss was a 'collective failure'. In a near 30-minute press conference following the defeat 113-runs, the skipper spoke on the series, where the faultlines lay and why there shouldn't be too much read into the performances of R Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja, who were outshone by the likes of Washington Sundar and Mitchell Santner. *Excerpts...*

● On what wrong

We didn't bat well in the first innings, we got only 150. The batters do understand that they failed to respond to that pressure, that challenge of playing on whatever pitch... the pitch was not bad at all, we just didn't play well enough to get close to that first innings score of theirs, and then obviously with 100 runs behind, we always knew that it was going to be challenging, whatever score we had to get because as the game went on, the pitch started behaving slightly differently.

● On batting collapses

It happened in two Tests, we had won 18 consecutive series in India, so it means that we have done a lot of good things, we have done good batting in the first innings, and we have done good batting in the second innings. In this series, we might not have been able to bat the way we should have but such things happen, consistently we have made runs on the pitch, so I don't want to think that we have done a lot of things wrong, I think two or three innings were bad, but it happens. I think in this series what we wanted to do didn't happen due to our batters, but I can't doubt anyone's ability because everyone has a lot of ability and these guys have won all the matches that we have won in the last series, so I don't want to post-mortem this thing, but yes, we can see what we should do differently in such situations.

India captain Rohit Sharma | EXPRESS

● On WTC final chances

I think it is too early to think about WTC, I am just hurting because we lost the game. I can't think about what lies ahead and whether it can affect our chances and all of that stuff. We didn't play well enough in these two games, which is hurting clearly... there are things that we need to do as a unit, not just the batters but also the bowlers, it is a collective failure from the bowlers and the batters. If you lose a Test it is not just because of one particular thing, it is the entire unit collectively failing.

● On losing the series because of bad three sessions

Because of these three sessions, I am not going to react differently. Look at the number of games we have won in India, I think I was just watching the television, out of the 54 Test matches we have won 42 test matches, that is nearly 80% of the Tests we have won, so there are more good things that have happened than the bad things, so why look at bad things so much. Of course, it is important to look at it, but not react so much that the guys who are within the team start feeling that something different is happening. I don't want to create that kind of environment where people start doubting themselves, that is not how we want to play cricket.

● On Ashwin and Jadeja

There is too much expectation on those two guys. Every game they play, they are expected to take wickets, they are expected to run through the team and Test matches. I don't think that's fair, it's the responsibility of all of us to make sure that we get Test match wins, not just the two guys. Of course, by their standard, they know where they stand and what they haven't been able to do or what they haven't done really well. But again, both of them have such huge contributions to our success of having that home streak of 18 series. These two have played a major role in that. A couple of series, I am not going to look into too much, especially with those two guys. They know exactly what happens and sometimes they are allowed to have some bad games here and there.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

Hyderabad FC secure first win of the season

ENS/AGENCIES @ Kolkata

HYDERABAD FC hammered Mohammedan SC 4-0 to register their first win of the Indian Super League 2024-25 season at the Kishore Bharati Krirangan in Kolkata on Saturday.

On a night where the hosts took the field in search of their maiden home win, it was Allan Paulista, who scored a brilliant brace with the likes of Stefan Sapic and Parag Shrivas also joining the goal-scoring bonanza. With this win, Hyderabad moved a spot above Mohammedan to 11th place.

Five-star NorthEast United

Earlier, NorthEast United FC produced a majestic performance in front of their home supporters in Guwahati to post a convincing 5-0 victory against Jamshedpur FC. This is the NorthEast's biggest win in ISL history and the first time they have scored five goals in a game in the competition as well. Alaeddine Ajaraie (5', 90') and Parthib Gogoi (44', 55') scored a double each while Macarton Nickson scored one (82').

Hyderabad FC's Allan Paulista (L) rejoices after scoring on Saturday | ISL

EXPRESS READ

Batra upsets Scozs to enter quarterfinals

NEW DELHI: Star Indian paddler Manika Batra shocked world No.14 Bernadette Szocs of Romania to enter the women's singles quarterfinals of the WTT Champions event in Montpellier, France. The world No. 30 Indian won 3-1 (11-9 6-11 13-11 11-9) in 29 minutes against the eighth-seeded Szocs in a round of 16 match on Friday night.

Pakistan thrash England to win series

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan sealed a memorable Test series win as they thrashed England by nine wickets on Saturday after Noman Ali and Sajid Khan delivered a spin masterclass. Noman and Sajid knocked over all 10 England wickets to dismiss the visitors for 112 as Pakistan raced to victory in Rawalpindi before lunch on day three of the third Test.

Zheng to face injury doubt Kenin in final

TOKYO: Olympic champ Zheng Qinwen moved into the Tokyo final but her opponent Sofia Kenin was left sweating on her fitness after retiring from her doubles match on Saturday. Kenin beat Britain's Katie Boulter 6-4, 6-4 to advance to the Pan Pacific Open final and was then joined by China's Zheng, who beat Russian Diana Shnaider 7-6 (5), 6-3.

Ranji: Spinners Gopal, Mohsin put Karnataka in driver's seat vs Bihar

ENS/AGENCIES

SHREYAS Gopal and Mohsin Khan shared seven wickets as Bihar were bowled out for 143 against Karnataka on the opening day in Patna. Leg-spinner Gopal delivered impressive figures of 4/28 in 14 overs, while off-spinner Khan returned 3/50 from 16.5 overs, with Bihar's innings wrapping up in 55.5 overs. Bihar opener Sharman Nigrodh provided resistance with a gritty 143-ball 60 before Karnataka spinners took control, leading to Bihar's steady fall of wickets.

Odisha dismissed for 193

At Kotambi Stadium in Vadodara, table-toppers Baroda skittled out Odisha for 193 in 65 overs, riding on a five-wicket haul from spinner Mahesh Pithiya. Pithiya was in fine form, jolting Odisha's middle and lower order with his off-spin, taking five wickets for 61 runs in his 22 overs.

Cyclone affects play

In Kolkata, the opening day of the Bengal-Kerala match at Jadavpur University Salt Lake Campus ground was called off due to a wet outfield following heavy rainfall from Cyclone Dana, which had crossed Bengal the day prior.

Rana takes four-fer

Pacer Harshit Rana celebrated his Test call-up for the Australia tour by taking four wickets against Assam, who finished day one with 264/6 on board, in the Ranji Trophy clash at the Arun Jaitley Stadium in New Delhi on Saturday. After opting to field first, Rana led the way for Delhi, running through Assam top-order. Sumit Ghadigaonkar hit an unbeaten century (120 batting) to keep Assam alive, but Rana dismissed Swarupam Purkayastha for seven, finishing the day with 4/62.

Ayush hits ton

Opener Ayush Pandey with his maiden First Class hundred (124) to set the platform as Chhattisgarh posted a challenging 293/2 in 90 overs against Tamil Nadu on the opening day in Coimbatore on Saturday. The left-handed opening pair of Ayush and Rishabh Tiwari (46) complimented each other and added 124 runs in 39 overs for the first wicket to give a good start.

Tanmay leads the way

Opener Tanmay Agarwal smashed an unbeaten 152 from 276 balls as Hyderabad finished with 290/1 on day one against Puducherry in Hyderabad.

Andhra in control

Skipper Shaik Rasheed (69), Hanuma Vihari (66) and KS Bharat (65) hit fifties to help Andhra finish day one with 295/6 on board against Himachal Pradesh in Visakhapatnam. Opting to field first, HP made early inroads thanks to Rishi Dhawan but Rasheed and the other two experienced batters ensured Andhra did not collapse.

SELECT SCORES: In Andhra 295/6 in 80 ovs (Rasheed 69, Vihari 66, Bharat 65; Divesh 2/40) vs Himachal Pradesh; Bihar 143 all out in 55.5 ovs (Nigrodh 60; Gopal 4/28, Mohsin 3/502) vs Karnataka 16/0 in 3 ovs; Bengal vs Kerala (no play due to rain); Hyderabad 290/1 in 90 ovs (Tanmay 152 batting, Reddy 68, Rayudu 62 batting) vs Puducherry; Assam 264/6 in 76 ovs (Sumit 120 batting, Roy 59; Rana 4/62) vs Delhi; Chhattisgarh 293/2 in 90 ovs (Pandey 124, Tiwary 68 batting, Desai 52 batting) vs TN; Odisha 193 in 65 ovs (Samantray 58; Pithiya 5/61) vs Baroda 50/1 in 22 ovs.

Do-or-die for NZ

With one eye on the Women's ODI Championship table, India will face New Zealand in Ahmedabad for the second ODI. A look...

QUESTIONS ON KAUR'S INCLUSION

Captain Harmanpreet Kaur was not part of the playing XI in the first fixture due to a niggle. In her absence, Smriti Mandhana led the side to win as Saima Thakor and Tejal Hasabnis made their debuts. It is still being determined if the captain will play in the second ODI, if not India would mostly go with the same XI again.

KERR RULED OUT OF THE SERIES

NZ has been dealt an injury blow as all-rounder Amelia Kerr has been ruled out of the ODI series after tearing her left quadricep muscle in the first game. She is scheduled to return home on October 27, and the team has not named any replacements for her. This could further dent New Zealand's chances.

C'SHIP POINTS ON THE LINE

While India have already qualified for the ODI World Cup as hosts, this is their opportunity to make their advance towards the ODI Championship trophy. New Zealand, on the other hand, desperately need to win the remaining matches to directly qualify for the WC. Sophie Devine's side is currently ranked sixth in the table.

● India vs New Zealand, 2nd ODI, Ahmedabad. ● Live on JioCinema and Sports 18 from 1.30 PM

FOOTBALL ROUND-UP

Haaland fires City to top of Premier League

AGENCIES @ London

ERLING Haaland fired Manchester City to the top of the Premier League as the striker sealed a 1-0 win against Southampton, while third-placed Aston Villa were frustrated by Bournemouth's last-gasp leveller on Saturday. Haaland had gone three league games without a goal but he ended that mini drought in the first half at the Etihad Stadium.

That was enough to lift Pep Guardiola's side into first place, two points ahead of second placed Liverpool, who can regain pole position if they win Sunday's blockbuster clash with title rivals Arsenal.

Manchester City players celebrate Erling Haaland's (2nd L) goal on Saturday | AP

City have not lost a league game at the Etihad for two years, a run encompassing 35 games, and bottom of the table Southampton, who have only one point from nine games this season, were never likely to shatter that impressive streak.

Aston Villa's hopes of pushing for the title suffered a setback as Bournemouth snatched a 1-1 draw at Villa Park.

Villa are unbeaten in the Champions League, sitting top of the table after seeing off Young Boys, Bayern Munich and Bologna. But they couldn't follow their latest European success with a domestic victory despite taking the lead in the 76th minute. Ian Maatsen crossed and Leon Bailey teed up Ross Barkley to hook in his first goal for the club. But Evanilson rescued Bournemouth with the headed equaliser six minutes into stoppage-time. **Results: Saturday:** Aston Villa **1-1** Bournemouth; Brentford **4-3** Ipswich; Brighton **2-2** Wolves; Man City **1-0** Southampton. **Friday:** Leicester **1-3** Nottingham Forest.

Why BRICS is a counterweight to Group of 7 rich nations

YESHI SELI @ New Delhi

THE recently concluded BRICS Summit in Kazan, Russia was significant for several reasons. For one, it saw the resumption of formal bilateral talks between India and China, signalling a thaw in frosty relations between the world's two most populous countries representing 2.8 billion people. Significantly, the meet also accepted 13 new countries as 'partners', taking the influence and size of the grouping to greater levels. Over the next two decades, the size of the bloc is slated to exceed the economies of the group of seven (G7) Western countries led by the US.

The 13 nations that have become partners of the BRICS are Algeria, Belarus, Bolivia, Cuba, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Nigeria, Thailand, Turkiye, Uganda, Uzbekistan, and Vietnam. These partner nations will eventually become full members of BRICS.

From BRICs to BRICS

Goldman Sachs economist Jim O'Neill coined the term BRIC (Brazil, Russia, India, and China) in a 2001 research paper titled 'Build Better Global Economic BRICs' to project how these four dynamic nations, if their growth pace was maintained, would dominate the global economy by 2050. O'Neill projected that the 'weight of the BRICs' would grow exponentially over the coming decade and the quartet would influence the global economy to such an extent that the G7 would be forced to accommodate these countries.

The moniker, BRICs, instantly took off and created a lot of interest among economists and strategic affairs experts. Goldman Sachs released a second paper titled 'Dreaming with BRICs: The Path to 2050' in 2003 positing that the BRICs could overtake the largest Western economies by 2039. Russian President Vladimir Putin was among the first embrace the idea of BRICs. He took proactive steps to bring the others on board to form a bloc which would grow to become a counterweight to the Western-dominated global economy.

Russia hosted the first official BRIC summit in 2009. South Africa joined a year later on an invitation from China, forming a formidable five-country grouping officially called BRICS (Brazil, India, China, and South Africa).

In 2023, decks were cleared for taking on board five more in a major expansion drive — Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates. Argentina was also invited and set to join the bloc but its newly elected President Javier Milei dropped that plan as he wanted to align with the West. The other five countries joined the grouping early this year.

Too big to ignore

The 10 BRICS members now comprise more than a quarter of the global economy and almost half of the world's population. The group is poised to exert influence over the wars in the Gaza Strip and Ukraine, the shape of the global economic system, the competition between China and the West, and efforts to transition to clean energy.

According to the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), after 2045, the size of the economies of the BRICS+ countries will exceed those of G7 as the gap between them with gradually reduce. For instance in 2020, the size of the economies of the BRICS+ countries was $20 trillion while that of the G7 members was $40 trillion.

EIU estimates that by 2025, the economies of BRICS+ will reach $30 trillion while that of G7 will exceed $50 trillion. In 2030, this number will be $40 and $60 trillion, respectively. In 2040, the difference will gradually decrease, and in 2045, the gross domestic product production of both groups of countries will be equal to $100 trillion. Also, India's significance and role in BRICS+ will further increase as the economy grows.

Addressing the BRICS Summit in Russia, Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke about the grouping's expanding role in shaping global affairs, indicating it has already become too big to ignore. "BRICS accounts for 40% of the world's humanity and about 30% of the global economy. In the last two decades, BRICS has achieved many milestones. This organisation will soon emerge as a more effective medium to face global challenges," Modi said.

The statement underlines the group's long-term strategic interests to bring about a more multipolar world, reducing the dominance of the US and its allies who make up the G7 — France, UK, Germany, Japan, Italy and Canada.

Putin mooted a proposal to create a BRICS-based grain exchange. "BRICS countries are amongst the world's largest producers of grain, vegetables, and oilseeds. We propose opening a BRICS grain exchange which would facilitate the formation of fair and predictable price indicators for products and raw materials, taking into account

their special role in ensuring food security," Putin said.

Apart from ensuring food security, the grouping can also disrupt the energy market dynamics, if it wants. Russia, being one of the world's top crude oil producers, is already a major player in the global energy market. Now, with the inclusion of Iran and the UAE, the BRICS' cumulative oil production accounts for almost 30% of global oil output, says a report by the Energy Institute.

India in both camps

While India is a founding member of BRICS, it gets invited to G7 events as well. Putting the evolution of BRICS in context, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar last month said, "Why the club? Because there was another club! It was called the G7 and you will not let anybody else into that club. So, we go and form our own club." He wondered why there is unease about BRICS. If the G7, a group of advanced economies, can remain intact despite the presence of the G20, then BRICS, a coalition of emerging economies, should also be allowed to exist, he reasoned.

BRICS vs G7

In 2020, the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) nations surpassed the G7 countries in the proportion of the global gross domestic product (GDP) as assessed through purchasing power parity (PPP). By 2023, this disparity had expanded, with the BRICS collectively controlling 32% of the world's GDP.

There is also talk on increasing trade among BRICS partner nations using local currencies. This will reduce the dependence on the US dollar. At the Kazan summit, Chinese President Xi Jingping spoke about the need for a payment system for BRICS and beyond. "BRICS must play a leading role in promoting a new system that better reflects the profound changes in the international economic balance of power," he said.

Speaking in a similar vein, Putin said the BRICS would expand its role and reshape the global order. The BRICS needs to keep its momentum and resist pressures, both covert and overt, from the US and other Western powers if it has to shake up the old world order. The Kazan summit may have paved a few more bricks in that direction.

SOURAV ROY

CURIOUS PATTERN IN ASSAM

POLICE FIRING ON CRIMINALS

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @ Guwahati

THE image of Assam's BJP-led government was dented after the recent rap by the Supreme Court on the alarming number of police encounters in the state. A whopping 171 cases were recorded in the first 15 months in which 56 people, including alleged militants, were killed and 139 others were wounded. A number of the cases involved individuals from a certain community.

It all began after Himanta Biswa Sarma took up the chief minister's mantle on May 10, 2021. People noticed a pattern when detenues – murder, rape accused, alleged drug dealers, cattle smugglers etc, were increasingly shot at on their legs and injured by the police. The police explanation invariably was that they had to open fire as the persons were attempting to flee, sometimes after snatching guns of the personnel.

Political furore

The increasing number of the incidents had whipped up a political furore with the Congress alleging that the police turned "trigger-happy" under the Sarma-led government. The party feared that Assam would soon turn into a police state. Other opposition parties viewed the incidents as "open killings", alleging that petty criminals were "silenced" to protect their bosses running illegal syndicates. Almost all opposition parties questioned how these detenues could snatch rifles from trained police personnel.

In July 2021, Sarma justified the series of encounters. He had stated that shooting at criminals "should be the pattern" if they attempt to escape from custody or try to snatch guns from the police to fire at them. He also stated that the attacks on police personnel would be retaliated, adding "extreme steps" as per the law would be taken to stop such criminals.

Speaking in the Assembly, the CM had appealed to all legislators to send a message that the House is against any form of crime. He congratulated the Assam police force but asked it to not torture innocent people. "You have full operational liberty as long as you fight the criminals as per the law," he had stated.

Controversial incidents

Last July, three alleged tribal Hmar militants were killed, a day after they were arrested by the Cachar district police. The police said they were hit by bullets in crossfire during an operation against other militants and died. Their families did not believe the police version and moved the Gauhati High Court. The autopsy reports indicated the persons suffered antemortem bruises and other wounds.

In August this year, a Muslim man, accused of raping a minor Hindu girl, died in police custody. The police said they had taken him to the scene of crime but he attempted to flee by jumping into a pond and drowned. The deceased was cuffed at the time of incident.

Lower court's body cam plea

While hearing a case pertaining to alleged assault on a woman constable by Gujarat MLA Jignesh Mevani, the Barpeta District and Sessions Judge had in April 2022 made some suggestions to the Gauhati High Court. He submitted that the court can consider directing police personnel to wear body cameras while on duty and get the incidents of police encounters probed by filing a public interest litigation (PIL) suo motu. The high court, however, snubbed the District and Sessions Judge, saying he had no jurisdiction to make such remarks and observations.

Legal battle

On July 10, 2021, lawyer Arif Jwadder lodged a complaint with the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) alleging that the Assam police were indulging in "fake encounters" since the installation of the Sarma-led government and sought a probe into the incidents. He alleged the police were "on an encounter spree" where alleged small-time criminals were being shot and the reason cited was that they had tried to flee police custody after snatching the service pistols of the personnel.

"...More than 20 such encounters took place and most of the persons at the receiving end were alleged drug and cattle dealers. In some of the cases, the alleged criminals died on the spot," Jwadder had written in his complaint. Listing 10 cases, he stated that the police were "staging fake encounters with impunity" following the chief minister's statement that "policemen should shoot at the legs of criminals as permitted by law". The lawyer refused to believe the alleged petty criminals could snatch a pistol from a trained police officer. "It cannot also be believed that an army of policemen couldn't stop the alleged criminals from fleeing custody," he said, adding the police were denying the right of a fair trial to the alleged criminals.

The lawyer told this newspaper he had learnt from media reports on July 11, 2021 that the Assam Human Rights Commission (AHRC) took suo motu cognisance of the incidents on July 7. "By backdating its cognisance, the AHRC stopped the NHRC from taking cognisance of my complaint as only one commission can take cognisance," alleged Jwadder.

He said a subsequent RTI reply revealed the AHRC sent a notice to the state government on July 12, directing it to submit an inquiry report on the incidents. "In due course, the government submitted the reports of magisterial inquiries into 16 cases, first to the AHRC and then, to the Gauhati High Court through an affidavit. I highlighted the loopholes before the court, but it did not take any cognisance," Jwadder said.

He had filed a PIL in the high court on December 24, 2021 and during a hearing on January 3, 2022, the court asked the government to file an affidavit and issued a notice on February 25. On September 29, the government filed an affidavit in the court stating that 171 incidents had taken place from May 2021 till August 2022 in which 56 people died and 139 were injured. Jwadder said on January 7 the same year, the AHRC closed its suo motu petition, citing that the matter was sub-judice. "The question is till that time, the court did not even issue any notice," he said.

High court's take

In an order issued on January 2023, the court said, "The basic allegation in this PIL is pertaining to the 'fake encounters' carried out by the police. The State has not denied the incidents but have taken a pleaded stand that all incidents of police encounters/police action are being enquired into. The petitioner has also not disputed the fact that enquiries have been conducted into the cases of police action/encounters but according to him, the enquiry conducted by the State was not as per law and by following the guidelines laid down in the case of PUCL (People's Union for Civil Liberties) and State of Maharashtra and others. However, there is nothing on record to substantiate the said assertion."

"...we are not inclined to entertain this PIL on the basis of the materials placed before us. It is, however, provided that the respondents shall provide all legally permissible documents to the Writ Petitioner including copies of FIRs/Final Report in connection with all the 171 cases of Police action, if the same is applied for by following the procedure prescribed by law," the court further stated in its order. After the court closed the PIL, Jwadder moved the Supreme Court on April 27, 2023.

Supreme Court's order

A two-judge bench, comprising justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan who is from Assam, recently sought detailed information from Assam government on the investigations conducted into these encounters. The court described the matter as "very serious" and observed that such petitions, challenging the police encounters, cannot be brushed aside as "premature". "It is a very, very serious issue. 171 incidents are alarming," the court said.

FACTOIDS

171 total number of incidents brought under court's attention by Assam government. They occurred between May 2021 and August 2022

Casualties

56 killed, 139 injured

Persons hit by bullets were mostly rape and murder accused, alleged drug and cattle dealers etc

Details about total number of cases post-August 2022 are not available

After detenues were increasingly shot at their legs for attempting to flee, people questioned the abilities of police personnel

State's crime rate per 1 lakh population dropped to 183.1 in 2023 from 387.5 in 2019. It was a 52% decrease

MAJOR ENCOUNTERS

FROM MAY 2021 TO AUGUST 2022

July 8, 2021 Dibrugarh cattle smuggler Mohammad Akhtar Raja Khan alias Tiklu Khan injured in firing while trying to flee from custody

July 3, 2021 Two arrested persons, Abul Hussain Barbhuiya alias Abu, 26, and Kamrul Islam alias Lakoi, 35, killed in police firing while allegedly trying to flee

July 7, 2021 Akhtar Raja Khan, arrested for cattle theft, shot in the leg while trying to escape

July 9, 2021 Tapan Buragohain, 26. Shot in the leg while trying to flee from police custody. Suspect in ONGC abductions

July 9, 2021 Jeharul Islam, 30. Known trafficker. Police shot him in the leg for bid to escape

July 11, 2021 Joynal Abedin, 47. Killed in police firing. Was accused of dacoity, armed robbery

July 15, 2021 Asadul Islam, undertrial in a drug peddling case, shot dead in a police encounter

July 22, 2021 Babul Deka, ULFA (I) linkman injured in police firing

July 25, 2021 Kawsar Ahmed, a drug peddler, injured in police firing

August 22, 2021 3 armed dacoits killed in police firing

October 18, 2021 Drug peddler Rahul Prasad grievously injured when police opened fire when he tried to escape

September 19, 2021 Fleeing robber injured in police firing, drug peddlers escape after being shot at

September 23, 2021 Arrested child killer shot in the foot by the police while trying to escape

November 21, 2021 Three accused injured in police firing in three different places while attempting to escape custody

January 15, 2022 Suspected ATM thief Mussadik Hussain injured in police firing

January 25, 2022 Suspected drug peddler shot in the foot by the police

January 22, 2022 A leader of the All Assam Students' Union shot in the foot by police in Nagaon district

January 29, 2022 Fleeing criminal Sariful Hussain alias Moina Miya shot in the foot by the police in Karimganj

February 17, 2022 Suspected marijuana smuggler injured in police firing in Kokrajhar

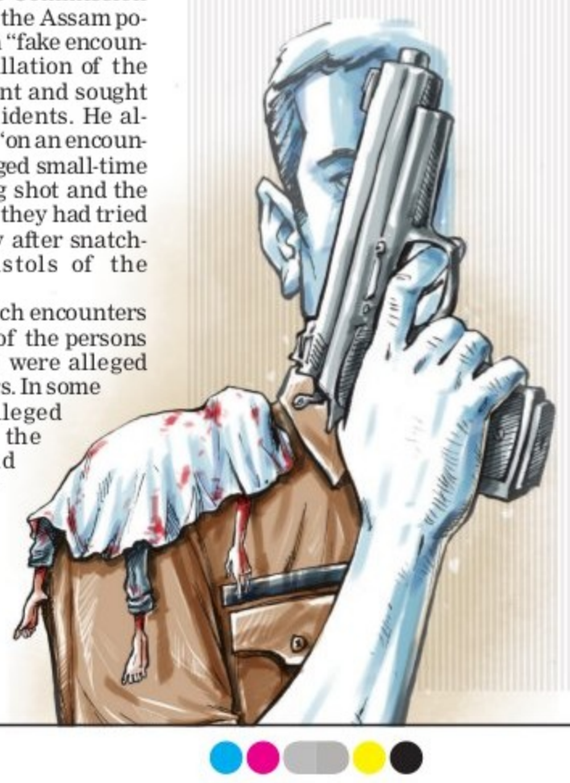
March 11, 2022 Two drug peddlers injured in police firing in Lakhimpur

March 17, 2022 Two alleged rapists killed in separate police encounters while trying to escape from custody

March 16, 2022 Biki Ali, prime accused in a rape case shot dead by police

March 22, 2022 Accused Harindra Ram shot in the left leg by police

March 26, 2022 Criminal Kamal Gogoi alias Pappu suffers bullet wound in his left leg in police firing while escaping custody

April 8, 2022 Drug peddling accused Jeherul Islam injured in police firing in Morigaon

April 21, 2022 Man arrested in rape case takes a bullet in his leg in police firing while trying to escape